

## **Voice of Democracy Rules and Eligibility**

### **WHO CAN ENTER**

The Voice of Democracy Program is open to students in grades 9-12 enrolled by the Oct. 31 deadline in public, private, parochial school, or home study program in the U.S., its territories or its possessions. Dependents of U.S. military or civilian personnel in overseas schools are also eligible to participate.

### **HOW TO ENTER**

Download the Voice of Democracy entry form and brochure to submit your essay to your local VFW Post.

Students should record their reading of the draft to an audio CD or flash drive. The recording can be no shorter than three minutes and no longer than five minutes (plus or minus five seconds).

Entries begin at the Post level. Once the student creates their essay and completes burning the audio version to an audio CD/flash drive, they can submit their typed version, CD/flash drive and the Voice of Democracy entry form to their local participating VFW Post by the Oct. 31 deadline.

### **JUDGING CRITERIA**

Originality is worth 30 points: Treatment of the theme should show imagination and human interest.

Content is worth 35 points: Clearly express your ideas in an organized manner. Fully develop your theme and use transitions to move smoothly from one idea to the other.

Delivery is worth 35 points: Speak in a clear and credible manner.

#### **NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS**

406 W. 34th Street  
Kansas City, MO 64111      Office 816.756.3390  
Fax 816.968.1157

#### **WASHINGTON OFFICE**

200 Maryland Ave., N.E.  
Washington, D.C. 20002      Office 202.543.2239  
Fax 202.543.6719

info@vfw.org  
www.vfw.org