



WE THE FUTURE CONTEST

★ Janine Turner ★
Founder & Co-Chair

CONSTITUTINGAMERICA.ORG

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Co-Chair

Graduate and Law School Students Contest Rules Summary---2017

- ◇◇ Must be enrolled in a graduate school or law school, carrying 9 hours or more, seeking a graduate or law degree, age 18 and above.
- ◇◇ Sign up for the contest online: <http://www.constitutingamerica.org>
- ◇◇ Graduate and Law School Students may submit a Short Film or Speech. **All entries that utilize copyrighted music, film clips or photos MUST obtain the proper licensing permissions IN ADVANCE of submitting the entry, in order to be considered.**

Submissions due no later than 11:59 p.m. September 17, 2017 to WeTheFuture2017@yahoo.com with subject line “GRADUALTE/LAW SCHOOL (INSERT CATEGORY ENTERING) ENTRY” See Official Rules Section III for complete submission instructions:

- **Speech**: Explain each of the seven Articles of the Constitution and give one example as to how they are working or not working to protect our freedoms. Speech must be no longer than 20 minutes and no shorter than 15 minutes, video recorded and uploaded to YouTube (640 x 360 minimum, HD preferred) or Vimeo (download enabled). Your entry will consist of the link to your speech, a written copy of your speech, and your signed entry form submitted to WeTheFuture2017@yahoo.com. See Official Rules Section III for full details.
- **Short Film**: Subject is: “Why the United States Constitution is Relevant Today,” and must be an **original** film written and directed by the student. Up to two students may collaborate on and submit the short film. It must be no shorter than 5 minutes and no longer than 10 minutes in length. Short film submissions should be uploaded to YouTube (640 x 360 minimum, HD preferred) or Vimeo (download enabled). See Official Rules Section III for full details.

The above rules are a summary only. Please consult “Official Rules” for complete instructions and guidelines.



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We the Future Contest Official Rules and Regulations for Graduate and Law School Students

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Section I – General Rules for Graduate and Law School Students

From September 17, 2016 to September 17, 2017 (the "Contest Period") Constituting America will conduct the "We the Future" speech and short film contest (the "Contest") in the 50 States of the United States of America, the District of Columbia, the U.S. Territories and the American Armed Forces Schools Abroad.

The speech topic is: Explain each of the seven Articles of the Constitution and give one example as to how they are working or not working to protect our freedoms.

The short film subject is: Why the United States Constitution is relevant today.

To enter, students and/or parent/guardians are encouraged to fill out the online Contest Sign-up form, indicating their intent to enter the contest, including the line on the form giving parental consent. Contest updates and deadline reminders will be sent to the students signing up for the contest in advance.

Submissions due no later than 11:59 p.m. September 17, 2017 to WeTheFuture2017@yahoo.com with subject line: GRADUATE/LAW SCHOOL (INSERT CATEGORY ENTERING) ENTRY. See Official Rules Section III for complete submission instructions and guidelines.

- **Speech:** Entry should be recorded and posted to YouTube (640 x 360 minimum, HD preferred) or Vimeo (download enabled). The first line of the video description in the online submission must read: Submitted to Constituting America's We The Future 2017 Contest www.constitutingamerica.org. The following must be emailed to WeTheFuture2017@yahoo.com: Entry permission form, YouTube or Vimeo link, and written copy of your speech. Pls include your name, age and grade on all pages of the entry package.
- **Short Film:** Submissions should be uploaded to YouTube (640 x 360 minimum, HD preferred) or Vimeo (download enabled). The first line of the video description in the online submission must read: Submitted to Constituting America's We The Future 2017 Contest www.constitutingamerica.org. The following must be emailed to WeTheFuture2017@yahoo.com: Entry permission form; YouTube or Vimeo link; script. Pls include your name, age and grade on all pages of the entry package.

Entries must be received by email no later than 11:59 p.m., September 17, 2017 but may be submitted at any time from November 15, 2016 to September 17, 2017. Early entries are appreciated and encouraged.

As further detailed in [Section VII](#) entrants and parent/guardians agree to accept and be bound by all terms of these Official Rules and Regulations and the decisions of Constituting America, whose decisions are final with respect to all matters of the Contest.

Only one entry per student per category is permitted. Incomplete, late or entries which contain unrequested information, or otherwise fail to comply with these Official Rules and Regulations will not qualify for consideration for the Contest. By entering the Contest, entrants and their parent/guardians acknowledge and agree that the entry along with any and all documentation submitted therewith will become the sole property of Constituting America and will not be acknowledged or returned. Entrant and their parent/guardian represent and warrant that the entry is an original work and does not infringe on the intellectual property rights of any third party, is unpublished (in any form or medium) and has not won an award. Constituting America may edit any entries for grammar, modify for style only, and entrant and their parent/guardian hereby grant Constituting America a license to record the song, distribute submitted material to third parties for purposes of publication or production, to publicize the contest, with no additional notification or permission of the entrant or parent/guardian. Submitted material will only be used to further the educational mission and goals of Constituting America (please see [Section VI](#) for a Notice to Parents and Privacy Policy), including, but not limited to, featuring the song, speech, PSA and short film on the Constituting America website, and putting them on a DVD for promotional distribution for the contest. Constituting America also reserves the right to produce or sell any “app” submitted, and to incorporate any computer software into our existing website.

Section II – Qualifications

The Graduate/Law School Contest is open to all United States citizens or legal residents who are students enrolled in a graduate school or law school, carrying 9 hours or more, seeking a graduate or law degree, age 18 and above at the time of entry.

Students must attend school in one of the 50 States, District of Columbia, all U.S. Territories, or American Armed Forces Schools abroad.

Section III – Speech and Short Film Instructions

All entries that utilize copyrighted music, film clips or photos MUST obtain the proper licensing permissions IN ADVANCE of submitting the entry, in order to be considered.

1. **Speech Background:** The Framers of the Constitution carefully constructed it to protect individual liberty and to restrain the power of the federal government. The Constitution is comprised of seven Articles which define and describe:

- the three branches of the federal government,
- the relationship between the federal government and the states,
- various other aspects of the Constitution as the supreme law of the land and its preservation and amendment process.

In recent history, there have been many examples of the Constitution not being followed, as well as many instances of the Constitution being upheld and the separation of powers being enforced as one branch of government acts as a “check” on another branch’s power.

Speech Topic: In your speech, explain each of the seven Articles of the Constitution, and then:

- describe one recent example of the Constitution being ignored/an example of a branch of government exceeding its constitutional limits, and cite the relevant Article(s) of the Constitution.

OR

- describe one recent example of the Constitution being followed/an example of the separation of powers and system of checks and balances working in practice and cite the relevant Article(s) of the Constitution.

Speech must be no longer than 20 minutes, and no shorter than 15 minutes. Speech entry should be recorded and posted to YouTube (640 x 360 minimum, HD preferred) or Vimeo (download enabled). The first line of the video description in the online submission must read: Submitted to Constituting America’s We The Future 2017 Contest www.constitutingamerica.org. The following must be emailed to WeTheFuture2017@yahoo.com: Entry permission form, YouTube or Vimeo link, and written copy of your speech. Pls. include your name, age, and grade on all pages of your entry package.

2. **The Short Film:** Should be an original film written and directed by the student. It must be no shorter than five minutes and no longer than ten minutes in length. The subject should be: “Why is the United States Constitution Relevant Today?” The short film may be written, directed and submitted by a team of not more than two people. Film & PSA submissions should be uploaded to YouTube (640 x 360 minimum, HD preferred) or Vimeo (download enabled). The first line of the video description in the online submission must read: Submitted to Constituting America’s We The Future 2017 Contest www.constitutingamerica.org **The completed Entry/Permission form with signed parental consent must be emailed, with YouTube or Vimeo link, and script to WeTheFuture2017@yahoo.com** with subject line: GRADUATE/LAW SCHOOL ENTRY (INSERT CATEGORY ENTERING). The student’s name, grade and age must be on each page of the script.

Section IV- Judging Process

After the expiration of the Contest Period, the judges selected by Constituting America will review all entries and submissions which comply with these Official Rules and Regulations and select one (1) winning speech, and one (1) winning short film. Judges reserve the right to not make an award in any category and/or make multiple awards per category. Entries will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

1. Adherence to instructions stated in [Section III](#)
2. Speech: originality, neatness, spelling, grammar and form, level of support generated for your cause
3. Short film: originality, appeal to college age group.

The odds of winning are proportional to the amount of entries received. Winners will be notified sometime after September 17, 2017.

Section V – Awards and Prizes

The two graduate/law school winners will be contacted directly through contact information provided on the Contest Signup Form. Winners will also be announced on www.constitutingamerica.org. As a condition to receiving any awards, the winners must provide publicity photos and may be required to return a liability release and publicity release within 10 days following the date of notification. Winners will receive:

BEST SPEECH – 1 Entry Chosen

1. Worldwide exposure on the Constituting America website as Best Speech, Graduate/Law School, 2017
2. Public Appearances (to be determined)
3. Certificate for winning Best Speech, Graduate/Law School, 2017
4. \$2000 Scholarship Prize

BEST SHORT FILM – 1 Entry Chosen

1. Worldwide exposure on the Constituting America website as official Constituting America Graduate/Law School Short Film, 2017
2. Television Appearances (to be determined)
3. Certificate for winning Best Short Film, Graduate/Law School, 2017
4. \$2000 Scholarship Prize (If team submission, prize is split)

All entrants and their parents/guardians are solely responsible for understanding and complying with any and all federal, state, and local laws, codes, regulations, and ordinances that may apply to the entrants and the activities or business in which such entrants may engage. Tax consequences may be associated with the prizes received by a Contest winner, which may include, without limitation, an obligation to report as income and to pay taxes on such income to federal, state, or local authorities. It is the responsibility of each Contest winner to determine the tax consequences of the prizes received and to comply with all applicable laws in all respects.

Section VI – Notice and Privacy Policy

Upon submission of entry, the material entered becomes the property of Constituting America. By entering the Contest, entrants and their parent/guardians grant Constituting America the right, unless prohibited by law, to use their names, cities and states of residence, pictures and likenesses without compensation, for the express purpose of advertising and publicity of the Contest in any and all media, now or after. Entrants and their parent/guardian also grant Constituting America permission to use their name and materials submitted to further its mission as stated on www.constitutingamerica.org. Privacy Policy and Notice to Parents are posted on www.constitutingamerica.org. Entrant and his or her parent/guardian hereby agree and acknowledge the provisions set forth in the Privacy Policy and Notice to Parents.

To receive further information about Constituting America, students, parents or guardians must click “Sign Up for Email Updates” on the front page of the website at www.constitutingamerica.org.

Section VII – Disclaimer

Constituting America will administer any and all aspects of the Contest, including, without limitation, evaluating a student's qualification or material submission, judge selection, review of entry documents and information, determination of prize winners, all of which is in the sole and absolute discretion of Constituting America. Any and all decisions of Constituting America relating to the administration of the Contest are final in all respects and no student, parent /guardian or person or organization related thereto, has a right to appeal, contest, and dispute or otherwise challenge such administration.

Constituting America is not responsible for (i) incorrect or inaccurate entry information whether caused by any of the equipment or programming associated with or utilized by this contest or by any human error which may occur in the processing of entries into this contest; or (ii) for lost, late, misdirected or delayed entries or electronic transmission errors or technical malfunctions.

If for any reason, the Contest is interrupted, delayed or negatively affected by any causes beyond the control of Constituting America, Constituting America reserves the right to cancel, modify or delay the Contest.

Section VIII – Nondiscrimination Policy

Constituting America will not discriminate in any manner, including on the basis of race, color, national or ethnic origin in its administration of the Contest. Each eligible entry submitted will be evaluated upon the merit of its contents and the criteria described in [Section IV](#).

This Contest is governed by the internal laws of the state of Texas without regard to principles of conflict of laws. If any provision of these Official Rules and Regulations is found to be invalid or unenforceable by a court of competent jurisdiction, such determination shall not affect the validity or enforceability of any other provision herein.