



**OPERATION PROTECT AND DEFEND  
STORY OF AMERICA ESSAY CONTEST**

**APPLICATION FORM** (Must be completed and turned in with essay – please print clearly):

Entry # \_\_\_\_\_ (leave blank)                      Date \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

School: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Parent/Guardian Contact: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone No. \_\_\_\_\_

**STUDENT'S DECLARATION:**

*I declare that this essay is my original work and that it was written for my social science/government/economics class. I declare that have read and understood the requirements for submitting this essay for the Story of America essay contest. If I am chosen for an award, I give permission for my essay, and any photos taken of me at the awards event, to be reprinted and used for educational and promotional purposes related to Operation Protect & Defend.*

Student's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent's/Guardian's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

*I certify that my student completed this essay under my supervision.*

Teacher's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher's Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Course Title: \_\_\_\_\_ Title of Essay: \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher's Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Entries must be delivered to your participating teachers no later than Friday, March 9, 2018.**

## **Story of America Essay Contest**

The goal of **Operation Protect & Defend’s** *Story of America* Essay Contest is to encourage critical thinking, active discussion and thoughtful writing about what it means to be a “good citizen” in America today. Americans enjoy a broad range of Constitutional rights that persons living in many other countries do not. These rights include freedom of speech and religion, a right to a fair trial, a right to due process and equal protection, to name a few. Along with these rights, we believe, come certain responsibilities, including the responsibility of each new generation of Americans to maintain and protect those rights in light of the circumstances and challenges facing their lives, their communities and their nation.

Teachers working with Operation Protect & Defend have developed a curriculum related to Executive Order 9066 which led to the wide-spread relocation and detainment of Japanese-American residents into internment camps during WWII. The curriculum identifies court cases interpreting the Order, and asks students to think about how that chapter in United States’ history parallels with current events. This course of study includes selected readings provided by your teacher and court opinions. It also involves in-class discussion and in-class writing about questions raised by the readings.

All 12<sup>th</sup> grade students in classes participating in the Operation Protect and Defend program are invited to enter this essay contest. Students will compete for the following cash awards:

Justice Robert K. Puglia Most Original & Inspirational Essay Awards	\$1,000 each
Frank C. Damrell, Lawyers’ Choice Awards	\$1,000 each
Jean McEvoy Memorial Scholarship Award	\$1,000
Bion M. Gregory Essay Recognition Awards	\$500 each
Teacher’s Choice Awards	\$200 each

It is expected that the essays submitted for the competition will be based on the student’s own research and understanding and will be their own original work. It is not permissible for someone else to rewrite, change, or add text to a student’s essay. However, it is permissible for someone to note spelling, word usage, grammatical, punctuation, and formatting errors. Using the work of someone else – in whole or in part – is considered plagiarism and is not permitted. Students should be careful to identify and give credit to any portion of the submitted essay that comes from another source.

***Notification of Winners and Award Dinner:*** Winners will be notified by the end of April 2018. An awards ceremony and dinner will be held on **May 10, 2018 at the Sheraton Hotel** in Sacramento. Details on the dinner and ceremony will be distributed later.

## ESSAY PROMPT



Japan's surprise attack on Pearl Harbor in December 1941 instigated World War II. Fueled by fear that West Coast residents of Japanese ancestry posed a national security risk, in 1942, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed Executive Order 9066. Under Executive Order 9066, many lost their homes, businesses and other possessions after more than 120,000 persons of Japanese descent were relocated and detained in internment camps, over 70,000 of whom were U.S. citizens. Although the U.S. was also at war with Germany and Italy,

Executive Order 9066 did not apply to citizens of German or Italian ancestry.

In 1943 and 1944, the U.S. Supreme Court upheld Executive Order 9066 as a lawful wartime order. It is now popular sentiment that the U.S. Government flagrantly violated the civil liberties of Japanese-American citizens. In 1988, the U.S. Congress awarded restitution payments of \$20,000 to each survivor of the internment camps.

Executive Order 9066 and the U.S. Supreme Court decisions interpreting the Order reflect tensions between competing social values, including national security versus civil liberties; wartime loyalty to the United States of America versus the constitutional right to engage in civil disobedience, as well as the powers each branch of the government can lawfully exercise during wartime.

In 1944, long before the recent domestic terror attacks in New York City, Boston, San Bernardino, and Orlando, a dissenting justice in *Korematsu v. United States* pointed out: “[n]o adequate reason is given for the failure to treat these Japanese Americans on an individual basis by holding investigations and hearings to separate the loyal from the disloyal, as was done in the case of persons of German and Italian ancestry.”

On January 25, 2017, in an interview with ABC News, President Donald Trump agreed that he would soon sign a “sweeping executive action to suspend immigration to this country.” President Trump stated: “We are excluding certain countries. But for other countries we’re gonna have extreme vetting. It’s going to be very hard to come in. Right now it’s very easy to come in. It’s gonna be very, very hard. I don’t want terror in this country. You look what happened in San Bernardino. You look at what happened all over. You look at what happened at the World Trade Center.”

What implications do the decisions in *Korematsu v. United States* have in modern times, as our leaders decide how to protect our nation?

Explain your answer using what you learned in the curriculum. In particular, please give consideration to the cases of *Hamdi v. Rumsfeld* and *Daud v. Gonzales*, in your response. You may support your answer with personal experiences if appropriate.

## **Story of America Essay Contest: Rules and Instructions**

1. The *Story of America* Essay Contest is open to all eligible 12<sup>th</sup> grade students enrolled in participating social science/government/economics/legal classes within the Sacramento City Unified School District, Twin Rivers Unified School District, San Juan Unified School District, Natomas Unified School District, Elk Grove Unified School District, Folsom Cordova Unified School District and the Sacramento County Office of Education. Relatives of Operation Protect & Defend steering committee members are ineligible.
2. The essay must be based on the reading materials, in-class discussions and in-class writings relating to the topic. The essay must be your original work.
3. Provide ONE copy of your essay. Your essay may be typewritten, word-processed, or neatly handwritten. It must be **double-spaced** using one side of 8-1/2 x 11” paper. Number the pages consecutively (1, 2, 3. . .). If you handwrite your essay in class, you are strongly encouraged to staple a typewritten or word-processed copy of the essay to your handwritten entry. However, any substantive differences between the handwritten in-class essay and the typewritten or word-processed duplicate may be grounds for disqualifying your essay from the contest. Illegible essays will not be considered.
4. The maximum number of words permitted is 2000. If typed, the type font must be 12 point or larger in a legible font (such as *Times New Roman*).
5. The completed Application Form must accompany the essay. Your name must NOT appear on the essay itself, only on the application form.
6. You must do your own work, during class as assigned and under the supervision of a teacher participating in the project. Your teacher must receive a copy of your essay and sign your application form. **Your essay must be turned into your teacher by Friday, March 9, 2018** to ensure that you are entered in the Contest.
7. The *Story of America* program sponsors reserve the right to reprint entries. Essays will not be returned. If you want a copy of your essay for your own records, you must make a copy before submitting it.

***Story of America Essay Contest***  
**Judging Criteria:**

*A distinguished group of local judges, lawyers, and community leaders will judge the essays. Judging guidelines include:*

UNDERSTANDING (Maximum points 10)

10	Demonstrates a meaningful understanding of all key issues
8	Demonstrates a meaningful understanding of some key issues
6	Demonstrates a meaningful understanding of a key issue
4	Demonstrates a basic understanding of some issues
2	Demonstrates a limited understanding of the issues

PERSPECTIVE/ORIGINALITY (Maximum points 15)

15	Expresses original ideas and extraordinary sense of personal commitment that inspires reader
12	Expresses some original ideas and a strong sense of personal commitment that is compelling
9	Expresses personal feelings on the subject that are compelling
6	Expresses a strong statement on the subject
1	Expresses limited personal interest in the subject with few original thoughts

WRITING (Maximum points 5)

5	Demonstrates exceptional command of the language, including clear organization of ideas, grammatical accuracy, and a precise word choice
4	Demonstrates strong command of the language, generally free from errors in grammar and language usage
3	Demonstrates reasonable control of language, with some minor errors in grammar and structure
2	Demonstrates limited writing skills, with errors in word choice and grammar