



Young Voices of Freedom

A Patriotic Art & Essay Contest for K-12 Students

As the nation approaches the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 2026, Point Blank Community is hosting an art and essay contest celebrating America's Semiquincentennial.

This contest invites Coldspring-Oakhurst ISD, Onalaska ISD, and other students of the area in grades K-12 to reflect on what makes America special. The competition is divided into three levels: high school, middle school, and elementary school. Cash prizes will be awarded at each level in two areas: writing and artwork.

The high school winner will receive \$100 per category, while the top middle school and elementary school submissions will each earn \$50 in each category. Students may submit only one essay entry and/or one artwork entry. The submission deadline is May 1, 2026. Submission can be made digitally via email at usa250@usa250-pb.com or by calling: 281-757-0682 to make arrangements to submit physical entries.

First Place Essay Winners will have an opportunity to read their work on stage. All artwork will be displayed during the Celebrate America 250 Festival at 7360 US Hwy 190, Point Blank, Texas from 10 AM- 4 PM on Saturday, July 4, 2026.

Through art or essay, students are encouraged to share how their life, family traditions, community, or culture reflects the spirit of America. Work will be judged on the student's Voice and Clarity of Ideas. Students may choose from various prompts for essays and artwork listed below.

High School 9th – 12th Grades

Essay requirements are 200-500 word count writing to the prompt. Artwork may include drawing, painting, collage, digital art, or photography.

Artwork should represent the prompt selected. Maximum size for artwork submissions: 18"x 24".

Prompts

- **A Moment That Shaped America**
Choose one event, decision, or movement from U.S. history and explain how it helped define the nation we know today and how it affects you on a daily basis. What steps should be taken to ensure that America remembers this event?
- **Loyal Citizenship**
What factors were involved in gaining America's Independence from Britain? What did it mean to be a loyal American citizen in 1776 and now in 2026? Why is loyalty to America important to you? How can Americans best show their loyalty to our country?
- **American Pride**
Why is the 4th of July such a significant holiday to Americans and what makes this 250th celebration significant to our country and to you? What should our celebrations include to honor our Founding fathers and those who have fought to create and maintain our freedom in America?