



Ambassade van het
Koninkrijk der Nederlanden

NEW YORK STATE
HISTORICAL
ASSOCIATION



*The Royal Netherlands Embassy and the
New York State Historical Association proudly present:*

Legacies of New Netherland:

A New York State Quadricentennial Essay Contest Contest Guidelines and Application

Topic

Students in grades 4-12 are invited to celebrate New York State's 400th birthday by investigating its early colonial history and developing an engaging historical essay. During the 2008-2009 school year, students are encouraged to explore New Netherland and learn how the Dutch have had a lasting impact on America's culture and heritage.

While looking for the Northwest Passage for the Dutch East India Company in 1609, Henry Hudson sailed into New York Harbor and up into upstate New York on the river that now bears his name. Claiming the land for the Netherlands, the Dutch soon began colonizing Long Island, Manhattan, and the Hudson River Valley. Although the Dutch surrendered their colony to the English in 1664, many of their cultural traditions, architecture, and customs persist in the New York State today.

With this essay contest, students have the opportunity to research early New York's Dutch history and write about the Dutch roots of three American cultural traditions:

- Religious tolerance
- Freedom of speech
- New York as a center of world trade

Students must conduct original research and use their findings to develop their essay. Students should interpret their findings and draw their own conclusions about the Dutch influence on New York State over the past 400 years.

Eligibility

- Competition is open to New York State public, private, parochial and home-schooled students in grades 4-12.
- The competition is divided into three divisions:
 - Elementary - Grades 4-5
 - Junior - Grades 6-8
 - Senior - Grades 9-12

Awards

- One winner will be chosen from five finalists in each division.
- Winners in each division will receive:
 - \$500 cash prize
 - Set of books on the Dutch colony of the New Netherlands for his or her school library.
- Finalists in each division will receive a Certificate of Merit.
- All contributing students will receive a Certificate of Participation.

Requirements - All Divisions

- Participating students must be sponsored by a teacher who prepares the contest registration materials and submits the essay according to contest rules.
- Only one essay will be accepted per student.
- Essays must be written by one student. No group submissions will be accepted.
- Essays must be researched and developed during the 2008-2009 academic year.
- All essays must be original work. Any form of plagiarism will result in disqualification.
- Essays must be typewritten with 1-inch margins on single-sided plain, white 8.5 x 11-inch paper.
- Text must be double-spaced and use a standard font (Times New Roman, Arial, etc.) that is no smaller than 10-point.
- Papers must include a separate cover sheet that includes ONLY the following information:
 - Title of the paper
 - Division of the entry (elementary, junior, or senior)
- Student information, including name, school, or city, should not appear on the title page in order to ensure that our judging is completely anonymous.
- Papers should be stapled in the upper right corner and should not be enclosed in a cover, folder, or binder.

Requirements - Elementary Division:

- Fourth and fifth grade students are asked to write an essay based on this topic: *"Choose a person from the colony of New Netherland and describe how and why his/her actions have helped make our country a better place today."*
- Essay topics should reflect one of the three broad themes: religious tolerance, freedom of speech, or New York as a center of world trade.
- Entries must meet all requirements listed for all divisions.
- Essay length is between 500-1,500 words (2-4 pages).
- Essay format can be a narrative story or a research report, but all facts and information must be historically accurate.
- Essays can be written in the first or third person, and must clearly express the point of view of the author.
- Students must include a minimum of five books or articles that they consulted in a bibliography.

Requirements - Junior Division:

- Sixth, seventh and eighth grade students are asked to write an essay based on this topic:
"Discuss why early settlements in New Netherland were a success, and how they contributed to our current way of life"
- Essay topics should reflect one of the three broad themes: religious tolerance, freedom of speech, or New York as a center of world trade.
- Entries must meet all requirements listed for all divisions.
- Essay length must be between 1,500 and 2,500 words (6-10 pages).
- Essay format is limited to a traditional research paper, written in the third person only.
- Essays must include proper citations – as footnotes, endnotes, or parenthetical references – in the style of Turabian or MLA only.
- Essays must rely on research in primary and secondary sources.
- Students must provide an annotated bibliography that lists all the resources that contributed to the development of the essay.
- Students must divide their bibliography into two sections: primary sources and secondary sources.
- Students may use research for this essay contest in the development and creation of a National History Day project, and vice versa. Please visit <http://www.nhd.org> or <http://www.nyshistoryday.org> for more information on the National History Day program.

Requirements - Senior Division:

- Ninth through twelfth grade students are asked to write an essay based on this topic:
"Choose one of the three Dutch traditions – religious tolerance, freedom of speech, or New York as a center of world trade – and discuss how it has impacted our American society from colonial times to the present. Pay particular attention to the tradition's change over the last four centuries and how it has been adapted to fit the fabric of our nation today."
- Entries must meet all requirements listed for all divisions.
- Essay length must be between 2,000 and 3,000 words (8-12 pages).
- Essay format is limited to a traditional research paper, written in the third person only.
- Essays must include proper citations – as footnotes, endnotes, or parenthetical references – in the style of Turabian or MLA only.
- Essays must rely on research in primary and secondary sources.
- Students must provide an annotated bibliography that lists all the resources that contributed to the development of the essay.
- Students must divide their bibliography into two sections: primary sources and secondary sources.
- Students may use research for this essay contest in the development and creation of a National History Day project, and vice versa. Please visit <http://www.nhd.org> or <http://www.nyshistoryday.org> for more information on the National History Day program.

Judging

- The goal of this essay contest is to help New York State students connect with the history in their communities while developing their research, writing, and critical thinking skills.
- Student essays will be judged by historians, educators, and museum professionals who have both an interest and expertise in colonial New York history.
- All submissions will be read and reviewed and then narrowed down to five finalists in each division. The finalists will be invited to Cooperstown during the New York State History Day contest on May 1, 2009. Finalists and their families will receive free admission to The Farmers' Museum, Fenimore Art Museum, and the National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum. The contest winners will be announced at the New York State History Day award ceremony, held later that day.
- Judges will use criteria similar to that developed and used by the National History Day program:
 - 60% Historical Quality:
 - Is the entry historically accurate?
 - Does it provide analysis and interpretation?
 - Does it support its analysis with adequate historical evidence?
 - Does it demonstrate an understanding of the historical context (time, place, and events of the time period)?
 - Does the bibliography show wide research?
 - 20% Relation to subject:
 - Does the essay address the topic as determined by the division requirements?
 - 20% Style and Grammar:
 - Is the essay original and creative in its topic and presentation?
 - Is it clear, grammatically correct, and accurately spelled?
 - Is it well-organized?
- The decision of the judges is final.

Submission Information

- Essay submissions must be *postmarked by March 1, 2009*.
- *Four copies of the essay* must be submitted by the sponsoring teacher along with one copy of the entry form.
- By submitting an essay to this contest, participants give permission to contest officials to publish winning or finalist entries.
- Entries will not be returned to students after the competition.
- Submit all entries to: **New York State Historical Association, c/o Statewide Programs, PO Box 800, Cooperstown, NY 13326**

Contact Information for Inquiries

New York State Historical Association, Statewide Programs Office

- Phone: 607-547-1534
- Fax: 607-547-1468
- Email: statewideprograms@nysha.org
- Website: www.nysha.org



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Entry Form

Student Name: _____ *Grade:* _____

Student Address: _____

City: _____ *State:* NY *Zip:* _____

Student Email (if applicable): _____

Title of entry: _____

This entry is nominated and submitted by (teacher's or administrator's name):

School Name: _____

School District: _____

School Address: _____

City: _____ *State:* NY *Zip:* _____

Teacher Phone: _____ *Teacher Email:* _____

Send *completed entry form* with *four copies of the student's essay* to:

**New York State Historical Association
Statewide Programs
PO Box 800
Cooperstown, NY 13326**

All entries must be postmarked by March 1, 2009.

For internal use:

Rec'd: _____ Div. _____ Ent. #: _____