

# DAR American History Essay Contest

2014-2015

## “A Child’s Journey Through Ellis Island”



By notifying Gwen Spivey (804-474-3431) or  
Jane Faircloth (803-279-4588), teachers may have the  
essays picked up or they may email at the following:  
Gwen Spivey at [gwenrs@comcast.net](mailto:gwenrs@comcast.net)  
Jane Faircloth at [janetarheel@comcast.net](mailto:janetarheel@comcast.net)



**Nancy Carson Library Research Guide**  
[www.abbe-lib.org](http://www.abbe-lib.org)  
Member ABBE Regional Library System

# DAR Essay Rules

## FORM

1. Handwritten, typed, or prepared on a word processor.
2. Use black ink only.
3. When using a computer use non-script font no smaller than 12 point or larger than 14 point(double spaced)
4. The essay must be in your own words.



## ELEMENTS OF JUDGING

1. Historical accuracy **1-25**
2. Adherence to topic **1-15**
3. Organization of material **1-15**
4. Originality **1-10**
5. Interest **1-10**
6. Spelling and punctuation **1-10**
7. Grammar **1-10**
8. Bibliography **1-5**
9. Completeness of title page **1-5**

Absence of bibliography or title page will disqualify essay.

**\*\* numbers indicate point value of each category.**



## Length of Essay

Grade 5: 300-600 words

Grades 6—8: 6000—1,000 words

**Do Not** count the words on your title page or in your bibliography. All other words count. Dates count as one word.



# Sample Title Page

**“A Child’s Journey Through Ellis Island”**

**John Smith  
1 My Street  
North Augusta, SC 29841**

**803-111-0000  
itsmyessay@myhouse.org**

**Name of My School  
8th Grade**

**Martintown Road Chapter, DAR  
495 words**

**Please note that an incorrect title page will eliminate the essay from being judged according to the national DAR Society’s rules.**

# DAR Bibliography Guide

## Book references consist of the following information when available:

Author last, Author first. Title. Editor, Compiler and/or Translator. Edition. Vol. Series name. Place of publication: Publisher, date of publication.

## Article references consist of the following information when available:

Author last, Author first. "Title of article." Name of the periodical. Series number or name. Vol.Issue (Date of publication): page numbers.

### *Book - single author*

Meltzer, Milton. The American Revolutionaries. New York: Thomas Y. Crowell, 1987.

### *Book - anonymous*

A Guide to Our Federal Lands. Washington: Natl. Geographic Soc., 1984.

### *Encyclopedia article*

Hickey, Donald R.. "War of 1812 (1812-15)." American Heritage Encyclopedia of America. New York: American Historical Society, Inc. 1934.

### *Article from a journal*

Nelson, Daniel A. "Ghost Ships of the War of 1812." National Geographic (1983): 289-313.

### *Work in an anthology*

Rubinstein, Arye. "Children with AIDS and the Public Risk." Aids: Facts and Issues. Ed. Victor Gong and Norman Rudnick. New Brunswick: Rutgers UP, 1986. 99-103.

### *Article in a multi-volume series*

Miller, Ruth. "Emily Dickinson." Dictionary of Literary Biography. Ed. Joel Myerson. Vol. 1. Detroit: Gale, 1978. 34-45.

## Electronic references consist of the following information when available:

Author last, Author first. "Title of poem, short story or similar short work within a larger project, database or periodical." Title of the scholarly project database, periodical or professional or personal site. Editor or Compiler of project. Version of source or volume and issue number. Day Month Year of publication or last update. Name of sponsoring institution or organization. Day Month Year of access <URL>.

### *Journal article in database*

Needham, George. "Institutions Changing Under the Force of New Information Technology." Generations full-text database 21.3 (1997). Expanded Academic Index. 14 Feb. 1998 <<http://infotrac.galegroup.com/itweb/usclibs/>>.

### *Professional site*

Portuguese Language Page. U of Chicago. 1 May 1997 <<http://humanities.uchicago.edu/romance/port/>>.

### *General website (be sure to evaluate content before using in scholarly writing)*

"The Building of the Transcontinental Railroad." History Central.com. 30 May 2009 <<http://www.historycentral.com/railroad/trans.html>>.

#### These examples are based on:

Gibaldi, Joseph. MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers. New York: Modern Language Association of America, 1995.

Gibaldi, Joseph. MLA Style Manual and Guide to Scholarly Publishing. New York : Modern Language Association of America, 1998.

MLA Style 17 Oct. 2000. The Modern Language Association of America. 18 May 2001 <<http://www.mla.org>>.

"MLA Works Cited Format (Modern Language Association)" SIRS Knowledge Source. Nancy Carson Library North Augusta, SC. 21 May 2001 <<http://www.sirs.com/>>.

## Step-by-step Guide To Writing Bibliography Entries (MLA)

If you were to use a book called *Ellis Island—Gateway to the New World* by Leonard Everett Fisher, you would follow the example below.

**Step One:** - Give author's name . Place the last name first, followed by a comma and then the first name followed by the middle name and a period.

Fisher, Leonard Everett.

**Step Two:** Add the title (underlined or in italics) followed by a period.

Fisher, Leonard Everett. Ellis Island-Gateway to the New World.

**Step Three:** Add the location of the publishing company (place of publication) followed by a colon.

Fisher, Leonard Everett. Ellis Island-Gateway to the New World. New York, NY:

**Step Four:** Add the name of the publishing company followed by a comma. Indent if you go to a second line.

Fisher, Leonard Everett. Ellis Island-Gateway to the New World. New York, NY: Holiday House,

**Step Five:** Add the copyright date and a period.

Fisher, Leonard Everett. Ellis Island-Gateway to the New World. New York, NY: Holiday House, 1986.

## 2014-2015 DAR American History Essay Contest Resource List

### Title: "A Child's Journey Through Ellis Island"



Topic for 2014-2015: The year 2015 marks the 125th anniversary of Ellis Island as an immigration station. On a typical day, immigrants arriving on the island could expect to spend up to seven hours in processing activities intended to determine whether or not they were legally and medically fit to enter the United States. Imagine yourself as a child traveling through Ellis Island in 1892. How would you describe your experience to your cousin who has never heard of Ellis Island?

#### Juvenile Non-Fiction Book Resources:

- 1). Andryszewski, Tricia. Immigration. Brookfield, Connecticut: Millbrook Press, 1995.
- 2). Fisher, Leonard Everett. Ellis Island: gateway to the New World. New York, New York: Holiday House, 1986.
- 3). Landau, Elaine. Ellis Island. New York, NY: Paw prints, 2009.
- 4). Marcovitz, Hal. Ellis Island. Philadelphia, PA: Mason Crest Publishers, 2003.
- 5). Peacock, Louise and Walter Krudop. At Ellis Island: A History in Many Voices. Bridgewater, NJ, Atheneum, 2007.
- 6). Temple, Bob. Ellis Island: Gateway to Freedom. United States of America: Child's World, Inc., 2000.

#### Juvenile Fiction Book Resources:

- 1). Fleischman, Paul. The Matchbox Diary. Somerville, Massachusetts: Candlewick Press, 2013. (read how the child was almost prohibited from entering the country)

#### Adult Book Resources:

- 1). Daniels, Roger. Coming To America: A History of Immigration and Ethnicity in American Life. New York, NY: HarperCollins Publishers, 1990.
- 2). Wasserman, Fred. Ellis Island: An Illustrated History of the Immigrant Experience. New York, NY: Macmillan Publishing Company, 1991.
- 3). Yans-McLaughlin, Virginia and Marjorie Lightman. Ellis Island and the Peopling of America. New York, NY: The New Press, 1990.

#### Magazine Resources:

- 1). "Flocking to Ellis Island: The Early Years." *Cobblestone* (2006): 7-8.
- 2). "Immigrants Still Flock to Liberty's Land." *National Geographic Magazine* (1955) 708-714..
- 3). "Tenement Life." *Cobblestone* (2004): 3-8.
- 4). "Welcome To Ellis Island." *Cobblestone* (2006): 10-11.

## Internet Resources:

- 1). Application process at Ellis Island  
[http://www.ellisland.se/english/ellisland\\_immigration1.asp](http://www.ellisland.se/english/ellisland_immigration1.asp)
- 2). Child Migrants Have Been Coming to America Alone Since Ellis Island  
<http://www.motherjones.com/politics/2014/07/child-migrant-ellis-island-history>
- 3). Ellis Island  
<http://school.eb.com/levels/elementary/article/399857>
- 4). Ellis Island  
[http://www.pbs.org/wnet/newyork//laic/episode4/topic2/e4\\_topic2.html](http://www.pbs.org/wnet/newyork//laic/episode4/topic2/e4_topic2.html)
- 5). Ellis Island  
[http://sydaby.eget.net/swe/ellis\\_island.htm](http://sydaby.eget.net/swe/ellis_island.htm)
- 6). Ellis Island Did Not Accept Unattended Children  
<http://www.nationalreview.com/campaign-spot/382389/ellis-island-did-not-accept-unattended-children-jim-geraghty>
- 7). Ellis Island: The Immigration Experience  
<http://freepages.family.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~gregkrenzelo/ellis%20Island.html>
- 8). Ellis Island Procedures for Admission of Immigrants  
<http://immigrantdaily.com/immigration/ellis-island-procedures-for-admission-of-immigrants>
- 9). How did immigrants process through Ellis Island?  
[http://wiki.answers.com/Q/How\\_did\\_immigrants\\_process\\_through\\_Ellis\\_island](http://wiki.answers.com/Q/How_did_immigrants_process_through_Ellis_island)
- 10). Immigrant Girl Receives Medical Exam at Ellis Island  
<http://www.highbeam.com/doc/1G2-3456500104.html>

## DVD Resources:

- 1). Forgotten Ellis Island (PBS Home Video)



A notebook of photocopied resources will be available at the Nancy Carson Library reference desk for in-house use. Copies may be made of materials included. The cost of copies is as follows:

Black and White \$.20 per page      Color \$.50 per page

Nancy Carson Library 135 Edgefield Rd North Augusta, SC 29841

803-279-5767      www.abbe-lib.org

**National Society Daughters of the American Revolution  
AMERICAN HISTORY ESSAY CONTEST 2014–2015**

(This information is for chapter and school use)

<b>TOPIC:</b>	Topic for 2014-2015: The year 2015 marks the 125th anniversary of Ellis Island as an immigration station. On a typical day, immigrants arriving on the island could expect to spend up to seven hours in processing activities intended to determine whether or not they were legally and medically fit to enter the United States. Imagine yourself as a child traveling through Ellis Island in 1892. How would you describe your experience to your cousin who has never heard of Ellis Island?
<b>PARTICIPANTS:</b>	All grade 5, 6, 7, and 8 students in a public, private, or parochial school, or those who are home schoolers, are eligible. This contest is conducted without regard to race, religion, sex, or national origin. <b>DO NOT SUBMIT A STUDENT PHOTOGRAPH WITH ENTRY.</b>
<b>LENGTH:</b>	<b>Grade 5: 300–600 words    Grades 6, 7, and 8: 600–1,000 words</b>
<b>FORM:</b>	<p>Essay is to be handwritten in black ink, typed, or prepared on a computer or word processor, using black type in a non-script font no smaller than 12 point or larger than 14 point. A limited vision student may use Braille, a tape recorder, or very large type. A written transcript must be included, as well as a teacher's or physician's letter attesting to the student's special need.</p> <p>All of the essay must be the student's original work.</p> <p>Each essay must have a title page listing the following:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Title of Essay: <b>"A Child's Journey Through Ellis Island"</b> (A subtitle is permitted if written below the topic.)</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Contestant's full name and address. (street, rural route, PO Box, city, state, zip code) <u>Note:</u> If the school's regulations prohibit providing the student contact information, then school contact information may be substituted.</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Contestant's phone number (with area code) and e-mail address, if available</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Name of contestant's school with grade level indicated</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Name of sponsoring DAR chapter</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Number of words in essay</p>
<b>BIBLIOGRAPHY:</b>	<p>Essay must have a bibliography listing all references utilized. Internet resources, if used, should be cited in similar format to that used for printed resources. Add the electronic address used to access the document as supplementary information.</p> <p>Any essay with information copied directly from sources without using quotes will be disqualified.</p>
<b>JUDGING AND AWARDS:</b>	<p>Judging will be based on historical accuracy, adherence to topic, organization of material, interest, originality, spelling, grammar, punctuation, and neatness. Pictures, maps, drawings, graphics, and other such additions <i>will not</i> be considered in judging and should not be included.</p> <p>Judging at the chapter level is by three judges, including at least one non-DAR judge.</p> <p>Judging at other levels is by three judges, all of whom are non-DAR members.</p> <p><b>CHAPTER:</b> One essay at each grade level is selected as the chapter winner and forwarded to the state American History chair for state competition. American History essay contest chapter winner certificates and bronze medals may be presented by the chapter if desired. In addition, chapters may present certificates of participation to every student who participates in the essay contest. These supplies are available from The DAR Store.</p> <p><b>STATE:</b> One essay at each grade level is selected as the state winner and forwarded to the appropriate national division vice chair of American History for division competition. The state winner receives a silver medal and state winner certificate.</p> <p><b>DIVISION:</b> One essay in each grade is selected as the division winner and forwarded for national competition to the national vice chair. Division winners are presented a division winner certificate.</p> <p><b>NATIONAL:</b> One essay in each grade is selected as the national winner. A certificate, gold pin and monetary award is presented to each national winner at Continental Congress in June 2015. Winning essays may appear in official DAR communications.</p> <p><i>Note: All essays must first be submitted to a local chapter. Essays sent directly to the national chair or vice chair of the essay contest will not be considered.</i></p>
<b>DEADLINE:</b>	Chapter chairs should determine date for students/schools to forward essays to them to allow for judging to be completed prior to state deadline. States with district level judging should set appropriate intermediate deadlines. Date assigned:

**NAME AND PHONE NUMBER OF CHAPTER CONTACT PERSON** \_\_\_\_\_

**NAME OF SPONSORING DAR CHAPTER** \_\_\_\_\_

If additional information about the contest is needed, please contact the Office of the Historian General, NSDAR, at  
1776 D Street NW, Washington, D.C. 20006–5303    Phone: (202) 879–3256