

Write the next
profile in courage.

Learn more inside

jfklibrary.org/essaycontest

2021 John F. Kennedy Profile in Courage Essay Contest

Deadline for submission: January 15, 2021





In *Profiles in Courage*, John F. Kennedy recounted the stories of eight US Senators who put the nation's interests above their own. They were guided by integrity and conscience, not party pressure or fear of losing the next election.

Here's your chance to write the next profile in courage.

Contest Topic

Describe and analyze an act of **political courage** by a US elected official who served during or after **1917**, the year of JFK's birth.

jfklibrary.org/essaycontest

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★ **Top 25 Students Receive Awards**

- First-place prize: **\$10,000**
- Second-place prize: **\$3,000**
- Five finalists: **\$1,000** each
- Eight semifinalists: **\$100** each
- Ten honorable mentions

★ **Participate from School or Home.**

Access curriculum materials, past winning essays, criteria for judging, and more online. Register and submit an essay at

jfklibrary.org/essaycontest

JOHN F. KENNEDY

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With support from *John Hancock*



Pamela Alexander
2008 Winning Essay Subject

“Stories of past courage
...can teach,
they can offer hope,
they can provide inspiration.”

John F. Kennedy



Russell Peterson
2012 Winning Essay Subject



Shirley Chisolm
2007 Winning Essay Subject



Tom Selders
2015 Winning Essay Subject



Edith Nourse Rogers
2019 Winning Essay Subject



Kenneth Hechler
2010 Winning Essay Subject

2021 Profile in Courage Essay Contest for High School Students

2021 Profile in Courage Essay Contest

Essay Topic:

Write an original and creative essay that demonstrates an understanding of political courage as described by John F. Kennedy in *Profiles in Courage*.

- Describe and analyze an act of political courage by a US elected official who served during or after **1917**, the year of JFK's birth. The essay may focus on an issue at the local, state, national or international level.
- Use at least five varied, reliable sources such as books, articles, and personal interviews. Participants are encouraged to use primary source material such as letters, speeches, and government documents.

Guidelines:

- Subject must be a US elected official who served during or after **1917**. Students are encouraged to choose an original subject and tell a story that has not yet been told.
- Essays must be a minimum of 700 words but no more than 1,000 words.
- Essays must include a bibliography of at least five varied, reliable sources.
- John F. Kennedy, Robert F. Kennedy, and Edward M. Kennedy are not eligible subjects for essays.

Awards:

- First place: **\$10,000**
- Second place: **\$3,000**
- Five finalists: **\$1,000 each**
- Eight semifinalists: **\$100 each**
- Ten honorable mentions:
- The nominating teacher of the first-place winner will receive the John F. Kennedy Public Service grant of \$500 to encourage student leadership and civic engagement.

Visit website for complete guidelines. JFKLibrary.org/essaycontest

Eligibility:

- United States high school students in grades nine through twelve attending public, private, parochial, or home schools are eligible.
- US students under the age of twenty enrolled in a high school correspondence/GED program in any of the fifty states, the District of Columbia, or the US territories; and US citizens attending schools overseas are eligible.
- Past winners and finalists are not eligible to participate.
- Employees of John Hancock and members of their families are not eligible.

Contest Registration and Submission:

All students must register online. Essays can be submitted online (preferred) or via regular mail by the postmark date of:

January 15, 2021

For complete guidelines, visit the Profile in Courage Essay Contest at JFKLibrary.org/essaycontest



For advice from past winners and finalists, visit the Profile in Courage Essay Contest page on Facebook.

Visit the contest website at JFKLibrary.org/essaycontest to access:

- Connections to Common Core State Standards
- Related National Standards in Social Studies and English Language Arts
- Contest Requirements
- Past winning essays
- Curriculum materials
- Criteria for judging
- Video for classroom use

JOHN F. KENNEDY

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JFK : A Legacy of Courage and Service



1917:

John F. Kennedy is born in Brookline, Massachusetts.



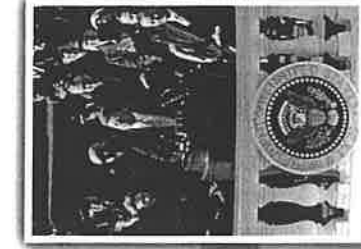
1943:

Lt. Kennedy commands the PT-109 in World War II.



1956:

Profiles in Courage is published.



1961:

John F. Kennedy takes the oath of office.



2021:

US high school students write new profiles in courage.