

# “What does Freedom of Speech Mean to Me?” Essay Contest



In this essay contest, participants will discuss why they think freedom of speech is important in the United States and how freedom of speech impacts their lives. Participants can include photos, sound, video clips and other media along with their essays, but it is not required.

## CRITERIA

- Originality/Creativity
- Clarity/Grammar
- Persuasiveness

## ELIGIBILITY

The contest is open to all Suffolk residents. Entries will be divided into five age groups:

- Kindergarten -3<sup>rd</sup> Grade: At least 50, no more than 150 words
- 4<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> Grade: At least 150, no more than 500 words
- 7<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> Grade: At least 250, no more than 1,000 words
- 10<sup>th</sup> -12<sup>th</sup> Grade: At least 250, no more than 1,000 words
- Adult - At least 250 words, no more than 1,000 words

## PRIZES

There will be three prizes awarded in each of the five age groups. The first-place winner in each age group will be invited to read their essay at the SCLA's 4th Annual Intellectual Freedom Conference on April 11<sup>th</sup> and will be invited to the NYCLU Awards luncheon on April 27<sup>th</sup>.

- 1st Place Prize - Apple iPod MP3 player, two tickets to the NYCLU awards luncheon
- 2nd Place Prize - \$50 Gift Certificate to Border's Books and Music
- 3rd Place Prize - \$25 Gift Certificate to Blockbuster Video

## JUDGES

Judges will include members of the Suffolk Chapter of the NYCLU; Suffolk County Library Association's Intellectual Freedom Committee; Long Island Educators for Academic Freedom; Suffolk BOCES School Library System and Brookhaven League of Women Voters. It will include librarians, elementary and secondary school teachers, college professors and lay people. If you are interested in serving as a judge for this contest, please contact Kevin McCoy at [mccoykj@sunysuffolk.edu](mailto:mccoykj@sunysuffolk.edu)

## TO ENTER:

Essays can be mailed to:  
Rita Brasen  
Ammerman Campus Library  
Suffolk Community College  
533 College Road  
Selden, NY 11784

Essays also can be e-mailed in Word, Rich-text or PDF format to:  
Essay @moriches-bay.com All essays must be submitted by  
December 21, 2007 to be eligible for the contest. Essays should  
include the name, address, age group and phone number of the  
person submitting the essay. Essays or other media will not be  
returned. Winners will be announced on March 1, 2008.

Co-sponsored by

Suffolk County Library Association's Intellectual Freedom Committee (<http://www.scla.net/IF>)  
The Suffolk Chapter of the New York Civil Liberties Union (<http://www.suffolknyclu.org/>)