THE NORTHERN NECK WRITING CONTEST

Submit your essay by July 4, 2026

On America's 250th, Making 1776 Relevant in 2026

A Project of the Kinsale Waterfront Fund on America's 250th Anniversary

Contest Guidelines

who?

Only entries from students enrolled in Northern Neck-based schools including homeschooled students with a Northern-Neck address will be accepted.

what?

Write a 700-800 word essay that re-envisions an early American statement or speech (late 1700s) and makes it relevant to a current local, national, or international problem or conflict.

Leaning on the original statement or speech as the foundation for the essay, propose a new solution to the problem/conflict.

Winning essays receive the following:
1st place – $500 | 2nd place – $250 | 3rd place – $100
Honorable mentions – $50

Essays will be judged on clarity and coherence, problem definition, and solution feasibility and scalability.

where?

Submit entries to entry@nnkwrites.org.
One entry per writer. For writing tips, click here.

when?

Submit your essay by July 4, 2026. Winners announced and published online at NNKwrites.org on September 1, 2026.

why?

We need new solutions to persistent problems. That's why we need your bold new ideas. Consider submitting something!

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