

Patriot's Pen

Each year, nearly 68,800 students in sixth through eighth grades enter the VFW's **Patriot's Pen** youth essay contest for a chance to win their share of nearly \$1 million in state and national awards. Each first-place state winner receives a minimum of \$500 at the national level, and the national first place winner wins \$5,000!

The essay contest encourages young minds to examine America's history, along with their own experiences in modern American society, by drafting a 300- to 400-word essay, expressing their views based on a patriotic theme chosen by the VFW Commander-in-Chief. Applications must be turned in by **midnight, Oct. 31**.

The 2024-25 theme is:
"My Voice in America's Democracy?"