

# 2023 HIGH SCHOOL ESSAY CONTEST

COMMEMORATING THE  
250<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF  
THE BOSTON TEA PARTY

NO TAXATION WITHOUT  
REPRESENTATION



**THE LAWYERS AND JUDGES** of the United States District Court, Middle District of Florida, through the Middle District Bench Bar Fund, and the Tampa Bay Chapter of the Federal Bar Association,

**INVITE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS IN GRADES 9-12** in Hardee, Hernando, Hillsborough, Manatee, Pasco, Pinellas, Polk, and Sarasota Counties,

**TO PARTICIPATE IN AN ESSAY CONTEST** commemorating the 250th anniversary of the Boston Tea Party,

## FOR THE CHANCE TO WIN CASH PRIZES\*

**First Place**  
\$2,000.00

**Second Place**  
\$1,000.00

**Third Place**  
\$500.00

**Fourth through Tenth Places, each \$250.00**

**Classroom Grants for Teachers of Top Three Winners**  
\$500.00

**Grants for Schools with the Most Qualifying Submissions**  
\$1,000.00; first place  
\$500.00; second place  
\$250.00; third place

\*The **first place** winner also will have an opportunity to shadow a Tampa Division United States District Judge for a day. A **qualifying submission** is one that satisfies all Contest Rules.

## ESSAY PROMPT

Two-hundred and fifty years ago, American colonists, upset that Britain was imposing “taxation without representation,” engaged in an act of defiance by dumping 342 chests of tea into the water. The event, which was a major catalyst for the American Revolution, was later dubbed “the Boston Tea Party.” The concept of “no taxation without representation” eventually led to the democratic form of government that is embodied in the United States Constitution.

While the literal concept of “taxation” may not directly apply to you, the concept of “being governed without a say” may resonate. Provide and explain a personal example in which the concept of “governance without a say” has some applicability to your life, either at home, at school, or in your community. Point to language in the Constitution, including its amendments, that best represents how our system of government is structured to fulfill the “promise” of “no taxation without representation”—or “no governance without a say”—and analyze that language in the context of the personal example you identify.

## KEY DATES

**November 6, 2023, Noon,** Essay submission deadline

**December 2023,** Recognition ceremony for all winners at the Sam M. Gibbons United States Courthouse

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

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