

**Dear Teachers:**

## **Christopher Columbus Essay Contest**

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Since 1996, the NSDAR has joined with the National Italian American Foundation to sponsor an annual national essay contest on Christopher Columbus. The contest is open to students in grades 9 through 12 in public, private, or parochial schools, or those who are home schooled. This contest is conducted without regard to race, religion, sex, or national origin.

For information about the., please visit the web site of the [National Columbus Celebration Association](#).

### **2016-2017 Title: "Technology's Impact on the Voyage of Christopher Columbus"**

**Topic: Technological advances have greatly changed our world since the voyages of Christopher Columbus. If Christopher Columbus had just some of the technology we have today in 2016, how might this have changed his planning and carrying out of his voyages: What technological advances would have been most beneficial to Christopher Columbus?**

One chapter winning essay is submitted to state chairmen of American History; state winners are forwarded to the division vice chairmen for judging; division winners are forwarded to the National Vice Chairman for the Christopher Columbus Essay, who in turn forwards them to the National Italian American Foundation for judging. First, second, and third-place winners are selected. Effective 2009-2010, the word count for the Christopher Columbus Essay Contest has been increased from 750 words to a range of 800-1,200 words

**Deadlines:** Due to Mrs Trexler in Guidance by Wednesday, October 26, 2016.

*Each entry should have a complete cover sheet that follows the essay guidelines.*

*Each entry must have a judging sheet complete with the students name attached to the essay.*

Thank you for helping DAR with this essay contest. If you have questions, please contact me by phone or email.

Karen C. Lilly-Bowyer

704-213-4232

kmbowyer@yahoo.com

**National Society Daughters of the American Revolution  
CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS ESSAY CONTEST 2016–2017**

(This information is for chapter and school use)

<b>TOPIC:</b>	Topic for 2016–2017: Technological advances have greatly changed our world since the voyages of Christopher Columbus. If Christopher Columbus had just some of the technology we have today in 2016, how might this have changed his planning and carrying out of his voyages: What technological advances would have been most beneficial to Christopher Columbus?
<b>PARTICIPANTS:</b>	All grade 9, 10, 11, and 12 students in a public, private, or parochial school, or those who are home schoolers, are eligible. This contest is conducted without regard to race, religion, sex or national origin. <b>DO NOT SUBMIT A STUDENT PHOTOGRAPH WITH ENTRY.</b>
<b>LENGTH:</b>	Length is to be from 800–1,200 words.
<b>FORM:</b>	<p>Essay must be typed, or prepared on a computer or word processor, using black type in a non-script font no smaller than 12 point or larger than 14 point. A limited vision student may use Braille, a tape recorder, or very large type. In this case, a written transcript must be included, as well as a teacher's or physician's letter attesting to the student's special need.</p> <p>All of the essay must be the student's original work. Each essay must have a title page listing the following:</p> <p><i>Title of Essay: "Technology's Impact on the Voyage of Christopher Columbus"</i>  Contestant's full name and address. (street, rural route, PO Box, city, state, zip code) <u>Note:</u> If the school's regulations prohibit student contact information, then school contact information may be substituted.  Contestant's phone number (with area code) and e-mail address, if available  Name of contestant's school and grade level  Name of sponsoring DAR chapter  Number of words in essay</p>
<b>BIBLIOGRAPHY:</b>	Essay must have a bibliography listing all references utilized. Internet resources, if used, should be cited in similar format to that used for printed resources. Add the electronic address used to access the document as supplementary information. Any essay with information copied directly from sources without using quotes will be disqualified.
<b>JUDGING AND AWARDS:</b>	<p>Judging will be based on historical accuracy, adherence to topic, organization of material, interest, originality, spelling, grammar, punctuation, and neatness. Pictures, maps, drawings, graphics, and other such additions <i>will not</i> be considered in judging and should not be included.</p> <p>Judging at the chapter levels is by three judges, including at least one non-DAR judge. Judging at other levels is by three judges, all of whom are non-DAR members.</p> <p><b>CHAPTER:</b> One essay is selected as chapter winner and forwarded to the state American History chair for the state competition. Certificates may be presented by sponsoring chapter, if desired. A Christopher Columbus Essay Certificate is available from The DAR Store.</p> <p><b>STATE:</b> One essay is selected as the state winner and forwarded to the division vice chair of American History for division competition. The state winner receives a state winner certificate.</p> <p><b>DIVISION:</b> One essay in each division is selected as the division winner and forwarded to the national vice chair in charge of the Christopher Columbus essay contest. National division winners will be recognized by NSDAR.</p> <p><b>NATIONAL:</b> One essay is selected as the national winner and the winner is invited to attend Continental Congress to be recognized. Second and third place winners are also selected. Judging at the national level is conducted by the National Italian American Foundation. The national winner will receive \$1,200 from the NIAF in addition to paid lodging and transportation to Washington, D.C. in October 2017 for the winner and one parent or guardian. The national winner must read the prize-winning essay at the Columbus Memorial, Washington, DC on Columbus Day (October 10, 2017). The second place national winner will receive \$500, and the third place national winner will receive \$300.</p> <p>(Chapters and states may present monetary awards and/or gifts in addition to the certificates if desired. DAR American History Essay Medals are not authorized for this contest.)</p> <p><i>Note: All essays must first be submitted to a local chapter. Essays sent directly to the national chair or vice chair of the Columbus Contest will not be considered.</i></p>
<b>DEADLINE:</b>	Chapter chairs should determine date for students/schools to forward essays to them to allow for judging to be completed prior to state deadline. States with district level judging should set appropriate intermediate deadlines. Date assigned:

NAME AND PHONE NUMBER OF CHAPTER CONTACT PERSON \_\_\_\_\_

NAME OF SPONSORING DAR CHAPTER \_\_\_\_\_

If additional information about the contest is needed, please contact the Office of the Historian General, NSDAR, at  
1776 D Street NW, Washington, DC 20006–5303 Phone: (202) 879–3256

## 2016 – 2017 Christopher Columbus Contest

### “Technology’s Impact on the Voyage of Christopher Columbus”



#### Suggested Reading List

Compiled by the National Italian American Foundation

Dugard, Martin. *The Last Voyage of Columbus: Being the Epic Tale of the Great Captain's Fourth Expedition, including Accounts of Swordfight, Mutiny, Shipwreck, Gold, War, Hurricane, and Discovery*. New York: Little, Brown, 2005.

Fernández-Armesto, Felipe. *Columbus*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1991.

Morrison, Samuel Eliot. *Admiral of the Ocean Sea: A Life of Christopher Columbus. Vols. I and II*. Boston: Little, Brown, 1942.

Taviani, Paolo Emilio. *Columbus, the Great Adventure: His Life, His Times, and His Voyages*. New York: Orion Books, 1991.

Wilford, John Noble. *The Mysterious History of Columbus: An Exploration of the Man, the Myth, the Legacy*. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1991.

#### Additional Reading List – Christopher Columbus Compiled by the American History Committee, NSDAR

Doak, Robin S. *Christopher Columbus: Explorer of the New World*. Minneapolis, MN: Compass Point, 1963.

Dor-Ner, Zvi, and William Scheller. *Columbus and the Age of Discovery*. Slippery Rock, PA: Slippery Rock U, 1991.

Dyson, John, Peter Christopher, and Coin Cuenca Luis Miguel. *Columbus—for Gold, God, and Glory*. New York: Simon and Schuster, 1991.

Phillips, William D., and Carla Rahn Phillips. *The World of Christopher Columbus*. Cambridge, England: Cambridge University Press, 1992.

Rienits, Rex, and Thea Rienits. *The Voyages of Columbus*. N.p.: Crescent, 1990

## **Awards/Recognition**

- **The local DAR chapter will award the local winner with a medal and a check for \$50. Each participant in the Christopher Columbus Essay Contest will receive a Christopher Columbus participation certificate.**
- **The local winner will compete at the state district level.**
- **At the state level, one Christopher Columbus essay is selected and a State Winner Certificate is presented, plus other awards at the discretion of the state.**
- **Division winners receive a Division Winner Certificate and a book.**
- **First, second, and third-place national winners are selected after judging by the National Italian American Foundation. The first-place national winner receives \$1,200 from the NIAF in addition to paid lodging and transportation to Washington, D.C., for the winner and one parent or guardian. The second-place national winner receives \$500, and the third place national winner receives \$300.**