[**Announcing the 2013-14 Young Patriots Essay Contest!**](http://debate-central.ncpa.org/yp14/)[**151**](http://debate-central.ncpa.org/yp14/#comments)

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The National Center for Policy Analysis and Debate Central are proud to announce the **2013-2014 Young Patriots Essay Contest**!

The Young Patriots Essay Contest is designed to challenge high school students to creatively solve problems in the realm of public policy through the art of writing. We assign a controversial topic each year and only THREE winners are chosen out of hundreds of essay submissions.

**The contest is closed for 2013-2014.**

[**Read the winning essays here.**](http://debate-central.ncpa.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/Top-3-essays-formatted-with-header-3.pdf)

**Stay tuned for the 2014-2015 contest announcement later this year!**

The topic of this year’s essay contest is:**“According to the four required readings. What policy changes should the government pursue in order to best foster economic prosperity?”**

This year, we’re introducing an interactive reading and education component to ensure you, as students, gain valuable insight on the NCPA’s perspective and message. Please read the four following pieces as you consider the above topic. Your submission will be graded in part according to how carefully and thoughtfully you engage with these four challenging articles. They are:

* “[Public Choice](http://debate-central.ncpa.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/08/Public-Choice-John-C-Goodman-NCPA.pdf),” by John C. Goodman
* “[Classical Liberalism,](http://debate-central.ncpa.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/08/Classical-Liberalism-John-Goodman.pdf)” by John C. Goodman
* “[I Pencil](http://debate-central.ncpa.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/08/Excerpt-from-I-Pencil.pdf),” by Leonard Read
* “[The Greatest Story Nobody Knows About](http://debate-central.ncpa.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/08/The-Greatest-Story-Nobody-Knows-About.pdf),” by Steven Landsburg

**Entrants have the opportunity to:**

* Earn a college scholarship of **up to $5,000**
* Have your essay published on Debate Central
* See your essay posted on the National Center for Policy Analysis (NCPA) home page
* Have your essay shared with 350,000 NCPA Policy Patriots via email
* Have your winning entry be sent to your hometown newspapers, radio and TV.

Your essay should be written in English and should not exceed 1,200 words.  For more guidelines on submission and formatting of entries, see below.**All essays must be submitted by Tuesday, December 31 2013 at 11:00pm. No late submissions will be accepted.**

**Young Patriots Submission Guidelines**

***Frequently Asked Questions:***

**Q. How should I format my entry?**

A. Essays should be written in English, with submissions of up to 1,200 words. Essays exceeding this length will not be considered. Please submit your entry as a Microsoft Word document.

Also be sure to include all essential information, including your name, address, phone number(s) and e-mail address in the body of the e-mail.

**Q. How do I submit my entry?**

E-mail your submission to **Rachel.Stevens@ncpa.org.**

Each e-mail submission will receive a return message verifying that the essay was received.

**Q. What happens if I exceed the word limit?**

A. Your essay will not be considered. There is no word minimum.

**Q. Can I choose to remain anonymous?**

A. No. We must be able to publish both your essay and name.

**Q. How should I format citations?**

A. In the Modern Language Association (MLA) format. Citations should be listed in a ‘Works Cited’ page at the end of the document. An example of a citation in this format from a web resource is listed below:

Goodman, John. What is Wrong with the Drug Industry? John Goodman’s Health Policy Blog. National Center for Policy Analysis, 23 Sept. 2011. Web. 24 Sep. 2011. ‹http://healthblog.ncpa.org/whats-wrong-with-the-drug-industry/›.

For additional citation questions please consult Purdue University’s free online formatting and style guide.

The works cited page should not be included in your overall word count.

**Q. Do I need to attach a cover letter?**

A. No.

**Q. Is there anything else you can tell me about how to stand out from the crowd?**

A. Yes. Here are a few suggestions for participants:

* Stick to the subject and topic. Submitting your essay in the proper format is essential, but the substance of your essay is the most important part. If you write a fantastic essay that doesn’t address the central question you won’t win.
* Submit a professional document. Double check grammar and spelling and try to make rambling sentences more concise.
* Follow and demonstrate a clear vision. This contest leaves lots of room to address the subject in a variety of ways. Students should attempt to be creative, clear and persuasive in their approach to the topic.
* Include your perspective on the works. Show us that you have read and considered the material. Do not simply summarize the readings but rather explain how they influence your thinking on policy.

**Q. Do I need to agree with the authors?**

The short answer: No. The longer answer: No, but you should warrant your disagreement with outside sources and research. Make sure your argument is complete, articulate and supported. Avoid *ad hominem* attacks that indict the author without properly considering the merit of the argument.

**Q. Is there just one prize?**

A. No. First, second and third prizes will be awarded in the amounts of **$5,000, $3,000, and $2,000** respectively.

- See more at: http://debate-central.ncpa.org/yp14/#sthash.6WmwL1wq.dpuf