



**National Awards Program & Nomination Youth Essay Category 2023 Topic:**

***Why is voting such a vital responsibility in our nation?***

**National Awards Program**

On November 21, 1949, General Dwight D. Eisenhower presented 200 recipients with the first Freedoms Foundation National Awards. Now, 70 plus years later, 57,000 awards have been presented to Americans from all walks of life – the famous and the unknown, the young and the old – from Maine to Hawaii. Large corporations and small businesspersons, farmers, students, teachers and military personnel have all been presented National Awards for their efforts to make America a better place for everyone.

**Bill of Responsibilities**

The Bill of Responsibilities, a document created by Freedoms Foundation, outlines the broad civic obligations each citizen should fulfill as a member of our free society. The document reminds all Americans that along with our rights come responsibilities. The Youth Essay Category of the National Awards is conducting a series of thematic essays based on the Bill of Responsibilities. This year’s essays should reflect upon the eighth responsibility: **To participate constructively in the nation’s political life.**

**Youth Essay Entry:**

Open to youth ages K-Grade 12. Individual essays may be the product of a classroom assignment or other contest. Entries must be typed, double spaced and corrected containing 500 to 750 words for grades 7-12 and 250-500 for K-Grade 6. Essays must also address the year’s topic and include the youth’s name, address, grade level and teacher’s name. Submit essays online at [www.freedomsfoundation.org/NationalAwards](http://www.freedomsfoundation.org/NationalAwards). Deadline for entries is **March 1, 2023 and June 1, 2023**. Please only one entry per person.

**Nominee Name** \_\_\_\_\_

**Essay Title** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address** \_\_\_\_\_

**City** \_\_\_\_\_ **State** \_\_\_\_\_ **Zip** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone** \_\_\_\_\_ **E-mail Address** \_\_\_\_\_

**School** \_\_\_\_\_ **Phone** \_\_\_\_\_

**Teacher’s Name** \_\_\_\_\_

**Teacher’s E-Mail** \_\_\_\_\_

**Grade Level** \_\_\_\_\_

**Freedoms Foundation Volunteer Chapter Affiliation:** \_\_\_\_\_  
(If applicable)

# *The Bill of Responsibilities*

**Preamble.** Freedom and responsibility are mutual and inseparable; we can ensure enjoyment of the one only by exercising the other. Freedom for all of us depends on responsibility by each of us. To secure and expand our liberties, therefore, we accept these responsibilities as individual members of a free society.

- ★ **To be fully responsible for our own actions and for the consequences of those actions.** Freedom to choose carries with it the responsibility for our choice.
- ★ **To respect the rights and beliefs of others.** In a free society, diversity flourishes. Courtesy and consideration toward others are measures of a civilized society.
- ★ **To give sympathy, understanding and help to others.** As we hope others will help us when we are in need, we should help others when they are in need.
- ★ **To do our best to meet our own and our families needs.** There is no personal freedom without economic freedom. By helping ourselves and those closest to us to become productive members of society, we contribute to the strength of the nation.
- ★ **To respect and obey the laws.** Laws are mutually accepted rules by which, together, we maintain a free society. Liberty itself is built on the foundation of law. That foundation provides an orderly process for changing laws. It also depends on our obeying laws once they have been freely adopted.
- ★ **To respect the property of others, both private and public.** No one has a right to what is not his or hers. The right to enjoy what is ours depends on our respecting the right of others to enjoy what is theirs.
- ★ **To share with others our appreciation of the benefits and obligations of freedom.** Freedom shared is freedom strengthened.
- ★ **To participate constructively in the nation's political life.** Democracy depends on an active citizenry. It depends equally on an informed citizenry.
- ★ **To help freedom survive by assuming personal responsibility for its defense.** Our nation cannot survive unless we defend it. Its security rests on the individual determination of each of us to help preserve it.
- ★ **To respect the rights and to meet the responsibilities on which our liberty rests and our democracy depends.** This is the essence of freedom. Maintaining it requires our common effort, all together and each individually.



[www.freedomsfoundation.org](http://www.freedomsfoundation.org)