Citizenship Essay Contest Rules

THEME: My Voice Matters

GOAL:

To promote and encourage participation in becoming responsible citizens. Using the theme provided, local units and councils are encouraged to conduct this program at any time during the school year, but the winning entries must be submitted by email to frayseredu@gmail.com on or before November 20, 2026. Each local unit and/or council may submit their five (5) best essays in each of the grade divisions.

DIVISIONS

Pre-Primary = Preschool–Kindergarten | Primary = Grades 1–2

Intermediate = Grades 3–5 | Middle School = Grades 6–8

GUIDELINES

1. All entries submitted shall be the original work from one individual entrant and must represent the student's interpretation of the provided theme. **NO GROUP ENTRIES ACCEPTED.**

2. Entry form must be completely filled out and signed by a parent and/or teacher verifying the original work of the student.

3. The entry must be written or typed on 8.5×11 white paper (or similar sized lined paper) with the student's name written on the back of each page. The student's name shall not appear anywhere on the front of any page.

4. The entry can be submitted only by submitting the entry and form via email to frayseredu@gmail.com.

GUIDELINES (continued)

5. Essays shall be a minimum length for each division, as follows:

- **Pre-Primary (Preschool–Kindergarten): 25 words**
- **Primary (Grades 1–2): 50 words**
- **Intermediate (Grades 3–5): 100 words**
- **Middle School (Grades 6–8): 200 words**

6. Students may receive assistance in writing (getting words on paper) as follows:

• Students in Pre-Primary and Primary may record or dictate their entries for another person to type or write the entry. Transcribers are not to alter the grammar or form of speech of the student. Entries must be transcribed in original form. If the transcriber is working from a written submission created by the student, the original work must be attached. Digital recordings should also be submitted.

• **Students in Intermediate and Middle School** may have their entries typed by another person, as long as the original work is attached. The transcribers are not to alter the grammar or form of speech of the student. Entries must be transcribed in original form.

7. Entry specifics shall be as follows:

• Hand-written entries may be either pencil or ink and on standard, lined notebook paper written by the entrant and verified on the entry form. Entries should have a space between each line of writing and must be written on only one side of the paper. Multiple page entries should not be stapled together. Each page shall be numbered. The student's name must be written on the back of each page but shall not appear on the front of any page.

• Typed entries by someone other than the entrant must have the original work included with the submission and be verified on the entry form. The essay should be typed on 8.5×11 white paper and be double spaced. The entry must be typed on one side only and multiple pages should not be stapled together. Each page should be numbered. The student's name must be written on the back of each page but shall not appear on the front of any page.

• Each entry must be submitted via email.

8. Do not use artificial intelligence (AI) to write, generate, rewrite, or substantially edit any portion of the essay. The submitted work must reflect the student's own original ideas and words.