

2024-2025 Official Entry Form

Voice of Democracy Competition

Must Be Completed by All Contestants

Jaidyn W. Corbett

Name: First, M.I., Last
4667 Waxwing Street

Address
Hoschton, GA 30548

City, State, Zip
() 678-404-2518 jwcorbett020@gmail.com

Phone Email
07/24/08 11 16 M

Date of Birth (mm/dd/yy) Grade in School Age Jacket Size
Mill Creek High School, Georgia

School Name, City, State

Teacher's name and Email (if applicable)

To Be Completed by Student's Parent/Guardian

(Required even if student is 18 or over)

Crystal Love

Parent/Guardian Name (Printed)
Crystal Love Digitally signed by Crystal Love
Date: 2024.11.11 19:33:01 -05'00' 11/11/2024

Parent/Guardian Signature Date
() 850-544-3668

Parent/Guardian Daytime Phone
CLove020@yahoo.com

Parent/Guardian Email

Participant Agreement for Students Advancing to National Level

If selected as a first-place state winner, I have the consent of my parent/guardian and school to attend the Voice of Democracy National Finals in Washington, D.C. as a guest of the VFW National Organization. In consideration for permission to participate in the National Voice of Democracy Competition ("Competition") I do hereby, for myself, for my heirs, executors, administrators and assignees, waive, release and discharge all rights and claims which I have or which may hereafter accrue against the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States (VFW) and/or the Departments (state organizations) of the Veterans of Foreign Wars and their respective officers, agents, successors and assigns from any damages which may be sustained by me in connection with my participation in or association with the Competition and/or arising out of any travel related to the Competition. In the event of sickness, accident or injury in connection with the Competition, I consent to and accept the services of a duly licensed medical, surgical or dental specialist selected on my behalf and for such treatments, as they may deem necessary. I understand that VFW will not be liable for such treatment. I further understand that the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States retains non-exclusive rights to use my audio file, essay, name and likeness in the promotion and execution of the organization's programs and activities.

I Have Read and Understand the Rules and Participant Agreement

I certify that I am the sole author of the enclosed audio/essay entry and that I have not inappropriately used any AI tools or Chat GPT. I have only entered the competition once yearly if otherwise eligible. I understand that if it is found that I have entered any other Post's competition or used this essay for another VFW competition, I face elimination from the competition and will return any and all prizes or incentives awarded.

Jaidyn Corbett

Digitally signed by Jaidyn Corbett
Date: 2024.11.11 19:34:35 -05'00'

Signature of Student Participant

11/11/2024

Date

To Be Completed by the VFW Post

I certify that this student has an authorized entry in our VFW Post Level Voice of Democracy Competition.

Post Commander/Chairperson Signature Post #
Gregg Morrison, JVC 4180

VFW Auxiliary President/Chairperson Signature (if applicable)

PO Box 392465

Post Address

Snellville, GA 30039

City, State, Zip

VFW 4180@gmail.com

VFW Post Email

No. of students participating 8

No. of winners advanced to District 3

Amt. of Post/Aux. scholarship awards \$ 325

Amt. of Post/Aux. additional expenses (banquet, pins, etc.) \$ 93

To Be Completed by the VFW District

I certify that the student named in the previous section is the duly selected winner of the Voice of Democracy Contest District Competition and is our sole entry into the Departments.

District Chairperson Signature Dist. #

Address

City, State, Zip

()

Phone Email

To Be Completed by the VFW Department Chairperson

I certify that the student named in the previous section is the duly selected first-place winner of the Voice of Democracy Department Competition and is our sole entry into the National Judging.

Department Chairperson Signature

()

Daytime Phone Email

The winner ☒ has been ☐ will be (check one) notified that they are the first-place Department winner on

For assistance contact:

816.968.2787

Email: youthscholarships@vfw.org

Local VFW Post Information:

Contact: Gregg Morrison, JVC

Phone: 770-656-3780 Best Time To Call: 12-1800

Alternate Contact: Donald Franklin, CDR

Phone: 770-972-8612 Best Time To Call: 12-1800



"Is America Today Our Forefathers' Vision?"

Vision is a very individualized concept, but it is very clear that America today is a blurred vision of what our forefathers were planning for the future of this great nation. The United States Constitution was derived with the thoughts of a strong democracy, equal liberty, and the freedom to possess individual rights.

The last eight years have been a turning point for American citizens. A process in which we believed held us to be a strong democratic society, voting, has been challenged, mocked, and insulted by everyday citizens and elected officials. On November 7, 2020, our election process shifted to shaky ground as a presidential candidate questioned the accuracy of a system we have held to such a high degree for so many years. By the middle of December 2020, the same candidate had termed the election a "Fake Election" and rallied one political party to "get moving." The status of this candidate allowed him to steer the minds of many and encourage them to discredit and dismantle our democracy. As a result, many citizens adopted an us versus them attitude as they ruined humanity to be able to win. However, that is the wrong attitude to have because when democracy is upheld, we all win, despite our political affiliation.

On January 6, 2021, the world was watching as America was attacked by Americans. It was a day that was thoroughly planned by officials to cordially transfer power and quickly flip the Whitehouse living quarters. It was a day filled with events that have been perfected and vetted over the years, but it became a day of mockery, death, uncertainty and injury in our nation's capital. These horrific actions were carried out by our citizens, the very people who are protected by the Constitution which was penned by our forefathers.

The ideals of our forefathers do not institute an abuse of power. Representatives are elected by the people, branches of government are in place to ensure a balance of power, and all men are created equal; these are the words that led the vision of our forefathers. The preceding example shows that elected officials are abusing power, especially when they use their influence on social media to impact elections, spread false information, and enrage citizens.

In addition, many Americans have become unaffected by the unjust treatment of people based on their ethnicity, country of origin, religious belief, political affiliation, or the color of their skin. American citizens of various minority groups have been abused and murdered simply because of who they are. The vision of our forefathers was to create a more perfect union where all men are created equal. So, America is not the vision of our forefathers, it has become a gray area of right and wrong. While America is not completely on the right path, all is not lost. The citizens of this great nation still believe in democracy and the sacredness of our constitution; therefore, we have the power to restore a stronger democracy and promote order and freedom for the future.