

ALL PRINCIPALS/APs/TEACHERS: Social Sciences- Bill of Rights Day Essay Contest
Category: For Your Information

Audience: All Principals/APs, All Teachers

Due Date: n/a

Meeting Date: n/a

Attachment(s): [Bill of Rights Day Essay Contest Guidelines 2018.pdf](#)
[Teaching about the Bill of Rights Internet Resources.pdf](#)
[Bill of Rights Day.pptx](#)

To provide schools with information about the first annual Division of Academics, Department of Social Sciences, Bill of Rights Day Essay Contest.

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- On December 15, 1791, the first 10 amendments to the Constitution, later known as the Bill of Rights, were ratified. The Bill of Rights protects our fundamental rights, guaranteeing freedom of speech, protest, and conscience. Alongside the Constitution and Declaration of Independence, the Bill of Rights stand as a testament to our country's ideals and beliefs.
 - In 1941, President Franklin D. Roosevelt issued the first proclamation dedicating December 15 as Bill of Rights Day. December 15, 2018 marks the 227th anniversary of the Bill of Rights.
 - At the November 20 meeting of the School Board of Miami Dade County, Florida, item H-4 was passed endorsing December 15, 2018 as Bill of Rights Day.
 - The Division of Academics, Department of Social Sciences, is sponsoring the first annual Bill of Rights Day Essay Contest for grades 4, 5, 6-8, and 9-12. Schools should conduct their own internal evaluations of student essays and are permitted to submit the top two school essays per grade band to the District Competition.
 - The purpose of this essay contest is to promote and improve student writing abilities as well as increase student awareness and knowledge of the Bill of Rights- the first ten amendments to the U.S. Constitution.
 - **For essay prompts, essay guidelines, due date, and award information, please see the attached flyer.**
 - **For a list of instructional resources available on the Internet about the Bill of Rights, please see the attached file.**
 - In addition, to encourage schools to conduct a school-wide announcement recognizing Bill of Rights Day as December 15, the Department of Social Sciences has prepared the attached brief PowerPoint that may be used in individual classrooms or during televised school announcements. Schools are highly encouraged to provide school-wide recognition of Bill of Rights day on Friday, December 14 since December 15 falls on a Saturday this year.
 - If you need information or have questions, please contact Mr. Robert Brazofsky, Executive Director, Department of Social Sciences, at rbrazofsky@dadeschools.net or see the contact information listed below.

Contact: Mr. Robert C. Brazofsky, Executive Director (305-995-1982)

Department: Department of Social Sciences