



America 250 Essay Contest Invitation

Theme – “What America Means to Me”

Dear Educators, Parents and Students,

In celebration of the upcoming 250th anniversary of the founding of the United States, we invite students to participate in the America 250 Essay Contest at the Cabarrus County Fair.

This contest is an opportunity for students to reflect on the meaning of America-our freedoms, our history, and the responsibilities of citizenship. We encourage students to share their thoughts, ideas, and hopes for the future of our nation.

Winning essays may be recognized at the Cabarrus County Fair (9/11-9/19) celebrating American’s 250th Anniversary in 2026.

We hope students will enjoy the chance to express what America means to them and to take part in this historic milestone.

All essays must be submitted by August 24th, 2026.

We look forward to reading their thoughtful and inspiring essays.

Sincerely,

Courtney Wyatt, Executive Director
Cabarrus County Fair
4759 Highway 49 N
Concord NC 28025



America 250 Essay Contest Entry Form

Topic: What America Means To Me

Student Name: _____

Grade: _____

Age: _____

School Name: _____

Teacher's Name (if applicable): _____

Parent/Guardian Name: _____

Parent/Guardian Email: _____

Student Signature: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

Teacher Signature (if applicable): _____

<p>Eligibility:</p> <p>Open to students in the following grade levels:</p> <p>Elementary school grades 3-5, 150-300 words</p> <p>Middle school grades 6-8, 300-500 words</p> <p>High school grades 9-12, 500-750 words</p>	<p>Submission Requirements:</p> <p>Must be written solely by the student. The use of artificial intelligence (AI) tools to generate or assist in writing the essay is NOT permitted.</p> <p>All essays should be typed.</p> <p>Must include the completed entry form attached</p> <p>One entry per student</p>
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<p>Submission:</p> <p>Submit Essays to:</p> <p>faressaycontest@cabarruscounty.us</p>	<p>Judging Criteria:</p> <p>Originality</p> <p>Clarity of ideas</p> <p>Connection to the theme</p> <p>Creativity and expression</p>
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Entry Deadline: August 24th, 2026

Awards:

Winners from each age category will receive prizes, special recognition and may be invited to read their essay at a special America 250 celebration event during the 2026 Cabarrus County Fair.

A completed W-9 form is required for the disbursement of any winnings. Information provided on the W-9 must belong to the student contestant, not the parent or guardian.