

LAW DAY ESSAY CONTEST 2026

The Rule of Law and the American Dream



Submit
Your Essay!

CBA
EST. 1894
Colorado Bar Association

LAW DAY THEME

The American Dream is built on the idea that everyone should have an equal opportunity to pursue their goals—but that dream depends on the rule of law. Laws protect our rights, ensure fairness, and make it possible for people to build their own futures.

YOUR TASK (MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS)

The Colorado Bar Association recognizes Law Day through its civics education essay contest. Youth are invited to share their thoughts about a particular topic related to the courts and U.S. government.

- Write an essay based on the appropriate prompt below.
- All essays must be submitted through the online form by **March 1, 2026**.
- Essays should be typed using 12-point font.
- Please include any documentation of research in a works cited page; essays believed to be written with AI will be disqualified.
- Winners will be announced on Law Day, **May 1, 2026**.
- Winning essays will be published in the *Colorado Lawyer*, and all winners will receive a complimentary copy of the publication.

WRITING PROMPTS

Middle School, 6th–8th Grade

The American Dream is built on the idea that everyone should have an equal opportunity to pursue their goals. What are your dreams for the future? What do you hope to do or become? Write about your dreams and describe how laws and rights—like equality, education, or freedom—help you and others have the chance to make those dreams come true. (Suggested word count: 800 to 1,000 words.)

High School, 8th–12th Grade

The American Dream is built on the idea that everyone should have an equal opportunity to pursue their goals. Reflect on your own goals for the future—what you hope to achieve—and discuss how the rule of law supports your ability to pursue those goals. Consider what challenges might arise if these protections did not exist. (Suggested word count: 1,000 to 1,200 words.)