



LINCOLN CLUB 2025-2026 ESSAY CONTEST

The Lincoln Club of Delaware, in partnership with WSFS Bank, is pleased to announce its 2025-2026 essay contest for Delaware high school students (Grades 9 through 12). Two winners will be selected. The topic for this year's essay is based on a quotation from Abraham Lincoln's Cooper Union speech, delivered on February 27, 1860, prior to his campaign for the Presidency.

"Neither let us be slandered from our duty by menaces of destruction to the Government nor of dungeons to ourselves. Let us have faith that right makes might, and in that faith, let us, to the end, dare to do our duty as we understand it."

The students will write an essay of 800 to 1000 words addressing the following questions: How did the political and historical context of the speech shape Lincoln's words? What is your opinion of the position he took?

The two winners of the essay contest will each receive a \$1,000 scholarship toward the expenses of post-secondary education. When a winner accepts an offer of admission to an institution of higher education, the award will be paid to the financial aid office of the institution.

In addition, the winners will be recognized at the Lincoln Club's annual dinner and may each bring two guests. The students and guests will meet a Lincoln scholar, hear the presentation, and have an opportunity to interact with the members of the Lincoln Club, including distinguished leaders in Delaware's business, judicial, legal, educational, and political communities.

The essays must be accompanied by a cover sheet giving the student's name, age, grade, school, address, telephone number, email address, and a word count for the essay. All materials must be in

12-point font and double-spaced. The cover sheet and the title of the essay will not be counted in the 800-1000 words.

Each entry, consisting of the cover sheet and essay, should be in Word and sent as an email attachment to the Lincoln Club's administrative assistant, Karren Helsel-Spry, at Karren@udel.edu. The deadline for submission is 5:00 p.m. on Friday, December 12, 2025. Essays should be submitted by the students themselves, not by teachers or parents. **Each essay submitted must represent the student's own thoughts and words.**

A committee of the Lincoln Club Board will select the winning entries based on relevance to the topic, originality, substance, and style. Prior winners are not eligible to participate. The winners will be notified on or before January 16, 2026. Their names and essays will be featured on the [Lincoln Club](#) website, where winning essays from previous years may be found, on the Lincoln Club Facebook page, and on other related social media sites. Other identifying information, such as telephone number and email address, will not be displayed.

The Lincoln Club reserves the right to post the winning essays without further compensation to the author.
