

“The Role of My Community in the Civil War”



A “Michigan in the Civil War” Essay Contest

Sponsored by
Michigan Council for History Education
Michigan Historical Commission &
Edward Surovell Realtors

WHAT? This contest will permit you, and your students, to learn how the American Civil war influenced Michigan and your community. A community is the place where you live. Its size can be as local as you wish it to be. However, it cannot be larger than the state of Michigan.

WHY? The Sesquicentennial of the Civil War offers an excellent teaching opportunity for helping students learn not only about the impact of the Civil War on the United States but also how it affected local communities across Michigan. This essay contest provides an opportunity for students to use local resources to tell stories about how the Civil War affected their community, however defined.

WHO? This contest is open to any Michigan student in 3rd through 12th grade in public, private, charter and home school settings. Only ONE entry is permitted from each person. The entries will be grouped into age and grade appropriate categories: Elementary, 3rd-5th grade; Middle, 6th-8th grade; and Senior High, 9th-12th grades.

HOW? Encourage students to independently research their community, using resources available at local libraries, museums, and the internet, to learn about this topic.

WHEN? The essay contest officially begins on Saturday, Nov. 6, 2010, the 150th anniversary of the presidential election of Abraham Lincoln, held on November 6, 1860. The entry deadline is Tuesday, April 12, 2011, the 150th anniversary of the start of the Civil War.

PRIZES:

With the support of the Michigan Council for History Education and Edward Surovell Realtors, there will be three First Place (\$150); three Second Place (\$100) and three Third Place (\$50) prize awards.

All students entering the contest are invited to the Civil War Sesquicentennial Essay Contest Awards ceremony at 2:00 p.m., Wednesday, May 25, 2011, in the Michigan Historical Museum Auditorium, 702 W. Kalamazoo Street, Lansing MI 48915.

In addition, a photo of the winning students will appear in an upcoming issue of "Ends & Beginnings," the quarterly newsletter of the Michigan Council for History Education. For more information, visit www.michiganhistoryed.org

Guidelines:

- Maximum of 1,000 words
- Text must be at least 11 point font
- Essay must be typed/computer-written
- Double space with one inch margins
- Each copy must be stapled in the upper left hand corner
- Please do not place essays in folders or binders, etc.
- Please include footnotes & bibliography or sources (Not included in word count.)
- All students entering the contest will receive a Certificate of Participation

Judging Criteria

- 15 points Creativity and originality
 - 15 points Cites references to historical documents & events
 - 10 points Responds specifically and thoughtfully to Theme
 - 10 points Presents ideas clearly and effectively with appropriate spelling and grammar
- **Ten point deduction if essay exceeds 1,000 words.
50 points MAXIMUM

"Michigan in the Civil War" Essay Contest Student Entry Form

Name _____

Grade _____ School _____

School Address _____

Home Address _____

School Phone _____ Home Phone _____ Email _____

I certify that this essay is my original work and all sources are properly cited.

Signature _____ Date _____

Please attach this form on top of the first page of your original essay. (Do not include with the copies.) Do not write your name or any other identifying information on the pages of the essay. Please mail 3 copies AND the original essay to:

David Hales

Social Studies Consultant

Wayne RESA

33500 Van Born Road Box 807

Wayne, MI 48184-24977

For more information, contact Mr. David Hales at 734-334-1311 or halesd@resa.net