



Who May Enter: The contest is open to high school students in Alaska, Arizona, California, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, Oregon, Washington, the United States Territory of Guam and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. Students in the 9th through 12th grades attending public, private, parochial and charter schools, and home-schooled students of equivalent grade status are invited to participate. Children of federal judges, chambers staff, and employees of clerks of court offices are not eligible to participate.

Subject: The prompt for this competition is as follows:

“Discuss all or some of the referenced Supreme Court cases and analyze their impact, if any, on your life.”

Students should consider why the Fourth Amendment limits when and how the government or others obtain information from your smartphone, voice activated intelligent personal assistant, or other electronic devices, and social media postings. Significant court cases include Katz v. United States (1967), United States v. Jones (2012), Riley v. California (2014), and Carpenter v. United States (2018). Students may also consider how Fourth Amendment rights may apply to drones, GPS, and other surveillance technology. Significant court cases include California v. Ciraolo (1986), Florida v. Riley (1989), Dow Chemical Co. v. United States (1986), and Kyllo v. United States (2001).

The essay should:

- 1) Demonstrate an understanding of the Fourth Amendment;
- 2) Explain the constitutional powers and rights relevant to the court cases mentioned above; and
- 3) Discuss the role of the judicial branch in preserving our rights to not to be subjected to “unreasonable search and seizure.”

Length and Format: Essays should be between 500 to 1,000 words. While not required, proper use of footnotes and bibliographies will be credited during judging. Footnotes and bibliographies will not be included in the word count. Essays must be submitted electronically on this website – <http://www.ca9.uscourts.gov/civicscontest> – as a Microsoft Word or Adobe Acrobat document. When entering the contest, you will be provided instructions for uploading your document. A student may submit both an essay and a video. A student may submit only one essay and be involved in the production of only one video.

Contest Duration: The contest website opens January 2, 2019. Entries will be accepted beginning February 1, 2019. The deadline for entries is 11:59 p.m. Pacific Time on April 1, 2019. Finalists will be selected in late May and the winners announced in June.

Judging: Judging will be based on the following criteria:

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| 1) Understanding of constitutional principles | 40 points |
| 2) Clarity and effectiveness in expressing the theme | 30 points |
| 3) Grammar, spelling and composition | 25 points |
| 4) Use of footnotes, bibliographies | 5 points |

Release Forms: Should you become a finalist in the contest, you will be required to submit a release form allowing the Ninth Circuit to publish your essay in print publications and on court public websites. In addition, contest winners will be required to provide and authorize use of photographs of themselves in contest-related promotional materials.

Disqualification: Providing false information, not adhering to the rules, not meeting the submission deadline, or not providing a release form if requested may result in disqualification.

Questions: Contact the Office of the Circuit Executive, (415) 355-8873 / civicscontest@ce9.uscourts.gov.



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Judging: Judging will be based on objective and subjective criteria:

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| 1) | Demonstrates an understanding of the historical background, constitutional powers and rights, and role of the judiciary; | 30 points |
| 2) | Exhibits originality and creativity; | 25 points |
| 3) | Engages the viewer on emotional/subjective level; | 25 points |
| 4) | Displays good production values (audio/video quality, editing, etc.); and | 10 points |
| 5) | Respects copyright rules, properly credits content sources. | 5 points |

Length and Format: Individuals and teams of up to three students can produce a 3-5 minute video (not including end credits). Submit as MOV, MPEG4, MPEG2, or WMV files. Resolutions of 720x486 pixels to 1920x1080 pixels are acceptable. Files may not exceed 1GB in size. Videos should be compressed using the H.264 codec. A student may submit both an essay and a video. A student may submit only one essay and be involved in the production of only one video.

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Copyright: Adherence to copyright laws and fair use practices will be required. Please consult the resources page on this website – <http://www.ca9.uscourts.gov/civicscontest> – for more information about how to legally make use of imagery, music and other materials created by others.

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