

2026 LWV-NCC Annual Scholarship
Empowering Voters and Defending Democracy
CHOOSE ONE

Scholarship Essay/Video Prompt - Option #1

The League of Women Voters' mission is "empowering voters, defending democracy." In a well-organized essay or video presentation, describe a significant experience during your school career in which you contributed to increasing civic awareness, encouraging participation, or supporting democratic values within your school or community. Explain what motivated your involvement, the actions you undertook, the challenges you faced, and the impact of your efforts. Conclude by reflecting on how that experience helped shape your understanding of the U.S. Constitution and Bill of Rights, and your rights and responsibilities as a citizen.

Scholarship Essay/Video Prompt - Option #2

In a healthy democracy, the power of voting and civic participation shapes the future of a nation. In a well-organized essay or video presentation explore how an engaged and informed electorate contributes to a strong, resilient democracy. Discuss what it means to empower voters, why voter participation matters, and how these ideas connect to the kind of country in which you want to live. Use historical examples, current observations, or personal reflections to support your argument.

Format Options

Written Essay:

- Length: 600–900 words
- Format: PDF or DOCX
- Font: Times New Roman, 12-point Spacing: Double-spaced
- Include your name and school/university on all pages

Video Essay:

- Length: 5-7 minutes
- Format: MP4 or MOV
- Must include clear audio and steady framing
- Include script or storyboard if used with your name and school/university

Content Requirements

- Respond directly to all parts of the prompt
- Use specific examples rather than general statements
- All work must be original and created by the applicant
- If referencing research, other sources, or organizations, cite appropriately

SEE THE SUBMISSION PROCESS CHECKLIST ON THE FOLLOWING PAGE

Submission Process Checklist

- Place all items below into a single compressed (zip) file:
 - Scholarship Application pages. Download this file, start typing and save it. It is fillable.
 - Your written essay or video
 - A copy of your driver's license or photo ID with proof of residence
 - Your most recent transcript or cumulative grade report
 - Ensure your file name includes your last name and submission type (e.g., Mitchell_Essay.pdf or Mitchell_Video.mp4)
 - Email the file to SCHOLARSHIP.LWVNCC@gmail.com
- Make sure those who are writing recommendations for you know the APRIL 1, 2026 submission deadline and have the link to the Google form. See link on page 2 of the application. At least one of the two recommendations should be from an advisor, counselor, teacher, administrator or supervisory trainer (tech/vocational). Recommendations will be sent directly to us.
- LATE OR INCOMPLETE SUBMISSIONS WILL NOT BE REVIEWED