

2027 LWV-NCC Annual Scholarship
LWV Mission: Empowering Voters, Defending Democracy
CHOOSE ONE

Scholarship Essay Prompt - Option #1

Prompt #1: My Voice, My Vote: Civic Engagement in a Democracy

Voting is one of the most fundamental ways citizens participate in a democracy, but civic engagement extends beyond casting a ballot. Describe a personal experience that has shaped your understanding of the importance of voting or civic participation. This might include your first experience voting, helping someone register or vote, participating in a community or school activity, advocating for an issue, attending a public meeting, volunteering in your community, or another experience that made you recognize the power and responsibility of having a voice in a democracy.

What did you learn from this experience, and how has it influenced the way you think about your role as a citizen? Explain why individual participation matters to the health of a democratic society.

Scholarship Essay Prompt - Option #2

Prompt #2: Democracy Begins with Us: From Personal Experience to Civic Responsibility

A strong democracy depends upon citizens who are informed, engaged, and willing to participate. Tell us about a personal experience that helped you understand what it means to be an engaged citizen. Your experience might involve voting or voter registration, working on a community project, speaking out about an issue, participating in student government, volunteering, discussing public issues with others, or seeing firsthand the consequences of civic participation—or the lack of it.

How did this experience change your perspective? What responsibility do individuals have to participate in our democracy, and how do you plan to use your own voice and vote to contribute to your community in the future?

Essay Format:

- Length: 600–900 words
- Format: PDF or DOCX
- Font: Times New Roman, 12-point
- Spacing: Double-spaced
- Heading should include your name, school/university and prompt #

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

Submission Process

- Upload your essay with the scholarship application, copy of driver's license or photo ID with proof of residence in ONE file
- Ensure your file name includes your last name and subject (e.g., *Mitchell_2027Essay.pdf*)
- Make sure you request recommendation letters far enough ahead of time and share the submission link with recommenders
- Late or incomplete submissions will NOT be reviewed