**Step 1:**[**Choose a U.S. history text from the list.**](https://www.collegeboard.org/writing-prize/theme)

**2015 Contest Documents**

* [**John Winthrop’s “A Modell of Christian Charity” sermon**](https://history.hanover.edu/texts/winthmod.html)
* [**Jonathan Edwards’s “Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God” sermon (1741)**](http://digitalcommons.unl.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1053&context=etas)
* [**Abigail Adams’s “Remember the Ladies” letter (1776)**](http://history.hanover.edu/courses/excerpts/165adams-rtl.html)
* [**Thomas Paine’s “Thoughts on the Present State of American Affairs,” from*Common Sense* (1776)**](http://www.bartleby.com/133/3.html)
* [**James Madison’s Federalist No. 10 (1787)**](http://www.ourdocuments.gov/doc.php?doc=10&page=transcript)
* [**George Washington’s Farewell Address (1796)**](http://avalon.law.yale.edu/18th_century/washing.asp)
* [**Seneca Falls Declaration of Sentiments (1848, principal writer Elizabeth Cady Stanton)**](http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/mod/senecafalls.asp)
* [**Abraham Lincoln’s “House Divided” speech (1858)**](http://www.abrahamlincolnonline.org/lincoln/speeches/house.htm)
* [**Abraham Lincoln’s Gettysburg Address (1863)**](http://www.abrahamlincolnonline.org/lincoln/speeches/gettysburg.htm)
* [**Abraham Lincoln’s second inaugural address (1865)**](http://www.ourdocuments.gov/doc.php?doc=38&page=transcript)
* [**Andrew Carnegie’s “Wealth” essay (1889)**](http://www.swarthmore.edu/SocSci/rbannis1/AIH19th/Carnegie.html)
* [**Frederick Jackson Turner’s “The Significance of the Frontier in American History” essay (1893)**](http://www.gutenberg.org/files/22994/22994-h/22994-h.htm)
* [**Booker T. Washington’s “Atlanta Compromise” speech (1895)**](http://historymatters.gmu.edu/d/39/)
* [**William Jennings Bryan’s “Cross of Gold” speech (1896)**](http://historymatters.gmu.edu/d/5354/)
* [**Woodrow Wilson’s Fourteen Points speech (1918)**](http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/mod/1918wilson.html)
* [**Franklin D. Roosevelt’s first inaugural address (1933)**](http://historymatters.gmu.edu/d/5057/)
* [**Franklin D. Roosevelt’s “Day of Infamy” address to Congress (1941)**](http://www.ourdocuments.gov/doc.php?doc=73&page=transcript)
* [**Dwight D. Eisenhower’s farewell address (1961)**](http://mcadams.posc.mu.edu/ike.htm)
* [**John F. Kennedy’s inauguration address (1961)**](http://www.presidency.ucsb.edu/ws/?pid=8032)
* [**Martin Luther King Jr.’s “Letter from a Birmingham Jail” (1963)**](http://coursesa.matrix.msu.edu/~hst306/documents/letter.html)
* [**Martin Luther King Jr.’s “I Have a Dream” speech (1963)**](http://avalon.law.yale.edu/20th_century/mlk01.asp)
* [**Malcolm X’s “The Ballot or the Bullet” speech (1964)**](http://www.edchange.org/multicultural/speeches/malcolm_x_ballot.html)
* [**Lyndon B. Johnson’s “Great Society” speech (1964)**](http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/americanexperience/features/primary-resources/lbj-michigan/)
* [**Ronald Reagan’s address to the National Association of Evangelicals (1983)**](http://www.reagan.utexas.edu/archives/speeches/1983/30883b.htm)
* [**George W. Bush’s address to the nation on September 11, 2001**](http://www.presidency.ucsb.edu/ws/?pid=58057)

**Step 2:**Find a teacher to sponsor you. He or she must be willing to provide feedback during the writing process, make sure your essay qualifies for submission, and submit the essay for you.

**Step 3:**Write a 1,000- to 2,000-word essay that:

* Describes your selected document’s historical and/or cultural context;
* Analyzes the author’s language choices and how they relate to his or her purpose for writing;
* Analyzes the intent, meaning, or cultural impact of the work; and
* Connects the document and your analysis of it to your community or personal experiences.

**Step 4:**Ask for feedback from your sponsoring teacher.

 **ROUGH DRAFT DUE JANUARY 16th!**

**Step 5:**Revise. Revise again.

**Step 6:**Save the final version of your essay as a PDF, and ask your sponsoring teacher to submit it online before **Feb. 28, 2015**.

Submissions will be accepted between Jan. 1 and Feb. 28, 2015.