

The West Point Society of Las Vegas

Essay Contest

Topic: Our Constitution – Why It is Special

Eligibility: Southern Nevada Students who are completing 8th Grade

Rules: Submit an essay of between 1 – 3 pages on the Topic. Essays that are too short or long will not be considered. Essays may be handwritten or printed. Judges' decision is final.

Judges: Members of the West Point Society of Las Vegas will screen essays, with final decisions made by members of the congressional nominating committees.

Prizes

1st Prize: The National Geographic DVD Series, Surviving West Point

2nd Prize: West Point - The First 200 Years (2002) DVD

3rd Prize: The Spirit of West Point: Celebrating 200 Years
by Jon C. Malinowski, Eugene J. Palka

Contest Period: March 16, 2004 – May 16, 2004. Winner announced May 29, 2004.

Submission of Essays: Entries can be submitted by email to WPSLVEssay@West-Point.org or by mail to 27 Dry Brook Trail, Henderson NV 89052. Please include your name, address and telephone number with your essay.

The United States Military Academy at West Point is the nation's Premier Leadership School and provides one of the finest undergraduate educations.

Those who are qualified and gain admission receive a full scholarship, worth over \$300,000.

To be qualified, one must take the proper classes in high school. Admission decisions are based upon academic record, physical fitness and leadership.

Planning for college begins with high school freshman course selection.





Control your Future



As you enter high school, you will make selections on courses and conduct that will affect your future. The choices you make in high school will determine the life you lead.

West Point offers one of the most highly respected quality education programs in the nation. This fully funded federal government program builds a solid leadership foundation that is essential when you serve your country as a U.S. Army officer following graduation.

West Point uses a “whole person” concept to evaluate applicants for admissions. If you want to be competitive for this, or other fine colleges, consider the following

60%	<p align="center">Academics</p> <p align="center">Take the right classes</p> <p>To be qualified you need to take 4 years of english, 4 years of math, 2 years of a foreign language, 2 years of a laboratory science and 1 year of history</p> <p align="center">Study & Do Your Homework</p> <p>If you do not do well in these classes, you will not be competitive.</p> <p align="center">Respect Your Teachers</p> <p>You will need good evaluations from your teachers to be accepted</p> <p align="center">Take the SAT or ACT Early and Often</p> <p>West Point will take the highest score you achieve on any of these standardized tests</p>
30%	<p align="center">Leadership</p> <p>West Point is the premier leadership school in the nation. Academic excellence, while required, is not enough.</p> <p align="center">Get involved in your school, clubs, sports and community</p> <p align="center">Demonstrate your potential by assuming leadership roles in community and school organizations</p>
10%	<p align="center">Physical Fitness</p> <p>Be in shape, practice the physical aptitude exam required for admission</p>

The Honor Code

A cadet will not lie, cheat, steal or tolerate those who do

The Mission

The mission of West Point is to educate, train, and inspire the Corps of Cadets so that each graduate is a commissioned leader of character committed to the values of Duty, Honor, Country; professional growth throughout a career as an officer in the United States Army; and a lifetime of selfless service to the nation.

If you have questions about college requirements - contact your guidance counselor,
If you have questions about West Point – visit www.usma.edu/admissions.
Virtually experience life at West Point by visiting www.virtualwp.org/



Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20510

March 10, 2004

West Point Society of Las Vegas
27 Dry Brook Trail
Henderson, Nevada 89052

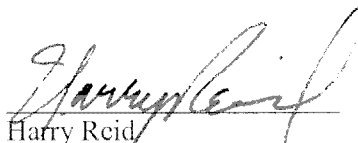
Dear West Point Society Members:

We would like to take this opportunity to commend you on your outreach efforts, particularly your sponsorship of an essay contest for southern Nevada eighth graders, "Our Constitution—Why It Is Special." Attendance at one of our nation's service academies is the goal of some of our state's best and brightest young people, and early planning and preparation is critical to attaining that goal. This essay contest is an excellent outreach tool and should serve to spark interest and enthusiasm in students preparing to enter their freshman year in high school.

The privilege of nominating students to service academies is one of the most gratifying facets of being a United States Senator or a Member of Congress, and we sincerely appreciate your hard work in reaching out to young Nevadans in an effort to effectively prepare them for this process. The outstanding education that appointees receive and the opportunity this provides for them to become tomorrow's leaders in our Armed Forces is invaluable and without equal.

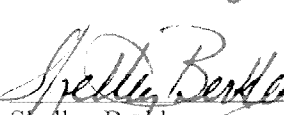
As you kick off the essay contest, please accept our sincere best wishes for this outreach project's unqualified success.

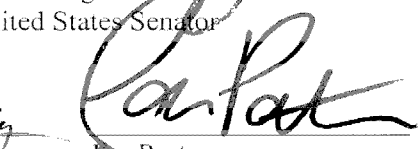
Sincerely,


Harry Reid
United States Senator


John Ensign
United States Senator


James A. Gibbons
Member of Congress


Shelley Berkley
Member of Congress


Jon Porter
Member of Congress