

VFW - Voice of Democracy - Application Tutorial

1 This is a sample VFW Flyer

VFW
VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS.

2024-2025 COMPETITION

**PATRIOT'S PEN AND
VOICE OF
DEMOCRACY**
Post 1234

"VFW made it possible
for me to go to college."
- Rachel 2020 Prize Winner

APPLICATION DEADLINE:
OCTOBER 31, 2024

ELIGIBILITY
Students must be lawful U.S. permanent residents or have applied for permanent residence (for which the application has not been denied) and intend to become a U.S. citizen at the earliest opportunity.

PATRIOT'S PEN

- Open to 6th, 7th and 8th grade students enrolled by the Oct. 31st deadline
- Submit a 300 – 400-word essay
- This year's theme is, "My Voice in America's Democracy?"
- National Prize is currently \$5,000

bit.ly/4cx7pPE

VOICE OF DEMOCRACY

- Open to students in grades 9-12 enrolled by Oct. 31st deadline
- Submit a 3–5-minute audio and written essay
- This year's theme is, "Is America Today Our Forefathers' Vision?"
- National Prize is currently \$35,000

bit.ly/3XeNf8Q

<https://scholarsapp.com>

Scholar's App SCHOLAR'S APP VERIFIED

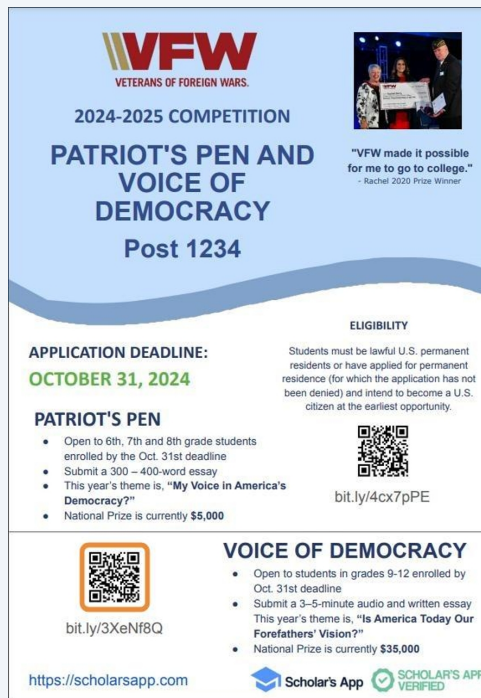
2 **Access the VFW Scholarship using the ScholarsApp Platform:**

You must take action one of two ways to navigate to the specific VFW Post Voice of Democracy Scholarship you're applying to below.

- Scan the QR code provided in the VFW flyer.
- OR copy the bit.ly link under the QR code provided in the flyer and paste it into your web browser to navigate directly to the specific scholarship page.

(Instruction on how to use the QR code and link at the bottom)

3 QR CODE



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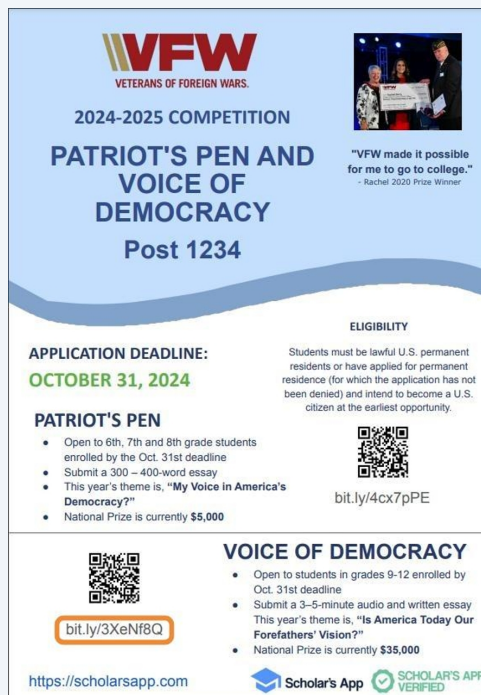
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4 LINK



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How to use the QR code or a Link

5 How to scan QR Code on your mobile phone.

- **Open the camera app on your phone.**
- **Point at the QR Code**
- **Tap the Notification:**
 - A link will appear on your screen. Tap it to open the webpage.



6 Copy the link provided in the flyer and paste it into your web browser to navigate directly to the specific scholarship page.

7

After using the QR code or the link, you'll land on the scholarship listing page specific to your Post for Voice of Democracy.

Click the blue "Qualify" button to begin the application process.

SCHOLARSHIP DETAILS

VFW - Voice of Democracy - Test Department - District 1 - Post 1234

📅 10/31/24 CST 💰 0 - 35,000

Since 1947, the Voice of Democracy has been the Veterans of Foreign Wars' (VFW's) premier scholarship program. Each year, nearly 27,000 high school students compete for more than \$2 million in scholarships and incentives. Students compete by writing and recording an audio essay on an annual patriotic theme. This year's theme is **"Is America Today Our Forefathers' Vision?"** Prizes and scholarships can be awarded at the Post, District, state and national level. Department (State) winners receive an all-expense-paid trip to Washington DC, to tour the city, be honored by the VFW and its Auxiliary and receive their portion of \$171,000 in national awards, the top award scholarship being \$35,000. All entries are submitted at the Post level. **Eligibility: The Voice of Democracy is open to students in grades 9-12 by the Oct. 31 deadline** who are enrolled in a public private or parochial high school or home study program in the United States, its territories and possessions; or dependents of U.S. military or civilian personnel in overseas schools. Although U.S. citizenship is not required, students must be lawful U.S. permanent residents or have applied for permanent residence (the application for which has not been denied) and intend to become a U.S. citizen at the earliest opportunity allowed by law. Foreign exchange students, students age 20 or over, previous Voice of Democracy first place state winners, GED or Adult Education Students are ineligible. **Essay & Video Instructions**

- Record your original 3-5 minute (+ or - 5 seconds max.) audio essay.
- You will submit the recording and typed essay via an upload to your Scholar's App application.
- You must be the sole author of your essay. The recording must be in your own voice and in English.
- Use of ChatGPT or other AI tools is not allowed.

Hearing/speech impaired students should email the Voice of Democracy National Office at youthscholarships@vfw.org for special instructions. **Note:**

- No music, singing, poetry or sound effects are allowed.
- The body of the essay must not identify you in any way, (including, but not limited to your name, school, city, state, race, or national origin).

Judging Criteria

- Originality is worth 30 points:** Treatment of the theme should show imagination and human interest.
- Content is worth 35 points:** Clearly express your ideas in an organized manner. Fully develop your theme and use transitions to move smoothly from one idea to another.
- Delivery is worth 35 points:** Speak in a clear and credible manner.

Essay(s) Required

[Message](#) [Qualify](#)

8

Once "Qualify" is selected, you will be prompted to either sign up with a new account or log in to your existing account with Scholar's App.

Scholar's App

Sign up

First name

Last name

Email

I recommend you use a personal email instead of using your School's or Institution's email address. That way we guarantee you receive Scholar's App's email notifications.

Password

I agree to the Terms of Service and Privacy Policy

[Continue](#)

Have an account? [Log in](#)
[California Privacy Policy](#)

Bypass Password Login
(Repeat this process every time you want to log in using this bypass.)

[Password-Less Login](#)



Tip! When signing up a new account, only step 1 "My profile" are required information. Step 2 (About me) and Step 3 (Academic info) is optional so you do not need to fill Step 2-3 of your onboarding if you do not want to.

9 Qualifying for the Scholarship:

- Verify that you qualify for the scholarship, then click "Submit".

Eligibility: VFW - Voice of Democracy - Test Department - District 1 - Post 1234

Answer questions below to see if you are eligible for this scholarship

[I don't know if I qualify](#)

You must be a student in grades 9-12 by the Oct. 31st deadline

I qualify

Nope

You must be enrolled in a public, private, parochial school or home study program in the United States, its territories and possessions, or dependents of U.S. military or civilian personnel in overseas schools

I qualify

Nope

You must be a U.S. citizen, a lawful U.S. permanent resident, or have applied for permanent residence

I qualify

Nope


Cancel



Submit

10

Once you submit that you qualify for this scholarship, click the bottom right corner highlighted blue with the button "Apply".

SCHOLARSHIP DETAILS

VFW - Voice of Democracy - Test Department - District 1 - Post 1234 Qualified 

 10/31/24 CST  0 - 35,000

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- You will submit the recording and typed essay via an upload to your Scholar's App application.
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- Use of ChatGPT or other AI tools is not allowed.

Hearing/speech impaired students should email the Voice of Democracy National Office at youthscholarships@vfw.org for special instructions. **Note:**

- No music, singing, poetry or sound effects are allowed.
- The body of the essay must not identify you in any way, (including, but not limited to your name, school, city, state, race, or national origin).

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Essay(s) Required

Discard Message Apply

11 Filling Out the Application Form:

Your web browser will open up another tab with the application available to be filled out.

Complete all required fields marked with red and labelled "Required".

Note that the information in the application form is separate from your profile details.

(All fields marked as required are mandatory in order to submit the application)

APPLY TO SCHOLARSHIP

VFW - Voice of Democracy - Test Department - District 1 - Post 1234

Veterans of Foreign Wars 10/31/24 CST

STEP 1 OF 1

General
Student Information

First Name Required

M.I. Required

Last Name Required

Date of Birth (mm/dd/yyyy) Required

Phone Number (xxx) xxx-xxxx Required

Email Required

12

Specify the length of your audio file (in minutes) and avoid labeling the essay audio file with your name.

(You can return to this section after uploading/recording your audio file)

This year's theme is: "What Are the Greatest Attributes of Our Democracy?"

- The body of the audio and written essay must not identify you in any way, (including, but not limited to your name, school, city, state, race, or national origin)
- Audio essay length 3 - 5 minutes (+ or - 5 seconds max).
- You must be the sole author of your essay. Use of ChatGPT or other AI tools is not allowed.
- The recording must be in your own voice and in English.
- No music, singing, poetry or sound effects are allowed.

Audio length must be 3 - 5 minutes. How long is your audio file?

Required

You must not identify yourself in anyway (including, but not limited to, your name, school, city, state, race or national origin.)

You must not put your name on the written essay or naming of the audio file.

I did not put my name on the essay/audio file or identify myself in anyway.

Required

Yes

Please type your essay here. You can also copy and paste your essay text.

Required

13

You can type your essay in this section of the application form.

(There is a word counter in here)

The screenshot displays a form with three main sections. The top section is a checkbox question: "I did not put my name on the essay/audio file or identify myself in anyway." with a "Required" label and a checked "Yes" option. The middle section is a text editor titled "Please type your essay here. You can also copy and paste your essay text." with a "Required" label. It features a rich text toolbar with icons for bold (B), italic (I), link, list, and heading (H1, H2). The text "test test test" is entered and highlighted in blue. Below the text area, an orange circle is labeled "word counter" with an arrow pointing to the "Word count: 0 words" text. The bottom section is an audio upload area titled "Upload your audio essay here. MP3 file format accepted." It includes a play button icon, the text "Reording Time: 0 seconds", and a link that says "Upload audio file instead".

Instructions on how to upload your audio file

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You can choose to upload your audio file or record on the platform. If uploading your audio file, the file type must be a MP3.

(Further instructions below)

The screenshot displays a user interface for submitting an audio essay. At the top is a rich text editor with a toolbar containing icons for bold (B), italic (I), link, list, and heading (H1, H2). Below the editor is a text area containing several lines of "test" text. Underneath the text area, it says "Word count: 90 words". The next section is titled "Upload your audio essay here. MP3 file format accepted." and contains a recording interface with a play button icon and the text "Reording Time: 0 seconds". To the right of this interface is an "upload button". Below the recording interface is a link that says "Upload audio file instead" with a mouse cursor hovering over it. The following section contains the instruction: "If you're unable to upload the audio file, please add a link to your original 3-5 minute (+ or - 5 seconds max.) audio essay in the textbox below." Below this is a text input field with the label "Link to your audio essay:" and a red text "Link to your audio file" above it. At the bottom of the interface, there is a footer note: "Hearing/speech impaired students should email the Voice of Democracy National Office at".

How to use the recorder on the platform

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Click the play button, and a prompt will appear asking for permission for ScholarsApp to access your device's microphone.

The screenshot shows the ScholarsApp interface. At the top left, there is a notification from 'scholarsapp.com' asking for permission to 'Use your microphones'. The notification has two buttons: 'Allow' (highlighted with an orange circle) and 'Block'. Below the notification, the main form contains several sections:

- A text input field with a placeholder: 'Identify yourself in anyway (including, but not limited to, your name, school, city, state, race or...'. Below it, a note says: 'You must not put your name on the written essay or naming of the audio file.'
- A required field: 'I did not put my name on the essay/audio file or identify myself in anyway.' with a 'Required' label and a checked 'Yes' option.
- A required text area: 'Please type your essay here. You can also copy and paste your essay text.' with a 'Required' label. The text area contains several lines of 'test test' text. Below it, a 'Word count: 90 words' is displayed.
- An audio recording section: 'Upload your audio essay here. MP3 file format accepted.' It features a play button icon and a 'Reording time: 0 seconds' indicator. An orange arrow points to the play button with the text 'play button'. Below this is an 'Upload audio file instead' link.
- A note: 'If you're unable to upload the audio file, please add a link to your original 3-5 minute (+ or - 5 seconds max.) audio essay in the textbox below.'
- A text input field labeled 'Link to your audio essay:'.

On the right side of the screen, there is a vertical 'Feedback' button and a user profile icon at the top right.

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To upload your audio file, click the "Upload" button, then select your MP3 file from your device. The file will be uploaded once selected.

(Note: Ensure your file is in MP3 format before submitting, otherwise it will not be uploaded)

The screenshot shows a form with several sections. At the top, there is a checked checkbox labeled 'Yes'. Below that is a text area with the instruction 'Please type your essay here. You can also copy and paste your essay text.' and a 'Required' label. The text area contains several lines of placeholder text and a word count of 90 words. Below the text area is an audio upload section with the instruction 'Upload your audio essay here. MP3 file format accepted.' and a 'Click to upload a file' button. An orange circle highlights the 'Click to upload a file' button. Below the audio upload section is a link to 'Record audio instead'. At the bottom, there is a section for 'Link to your audio essay:' with a text input field.

Uploading audio file using a link

20

You can also paste the link of your audio file here. Ensure that the link you provide is accessible to everyone by making permissions to access the link for everyone, so anyone reviewing your application can listen to your audio.

Word count: 90 words

Upload your audio essay here. MP3 file format accepted.

Discard Reording Time: 6 seconds

Upload audio file instead

If you're unable to upload the audio file, please add a link to your original 3-5 minute (+ or - 5 seconds max.) audio essay in the textbox below.

Link to your audio essay:

Hearing/speech impaired students should email the Voice of Democracy National Office at youthscholarships@vfw.org for special instructions.

21

Once all required fields are completed, you can either submit your application or save it if you're not ready to submit yet. You'll still have the option to edit your submission until the deadline.

I have read and understand the rules and participant agreement. Required

Yes

Student Signature

Signature of Student Participant (Type Name) Required

Victoria Test

Date Required

08/13/2024

Parent Signature

Signature of Parent/Guardian (Type Name) Required

parent test

Text Required

08/13/2024

Save button Submit button

Save Application Submit application

22 Confirmation:

- Once you submit your application, it will updated under the tab "applied" on your main page.

SCHOLARSHIP DETAILS

VFW - Voice of Democracy - Test Department - District 1 - Post 1234



📅 10/31/24 CST 💰 0 - 35,000

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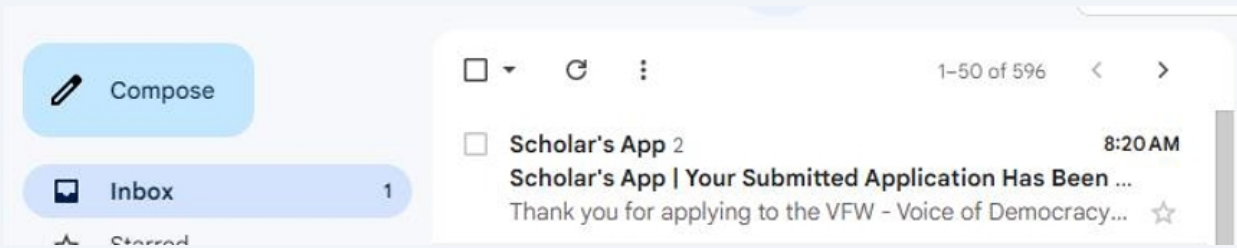
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- **Delivery is worth 35 points:** Speak in a clear and credible manner.

Essay(s) Required

[View Application](#)

23 Confirmation of Application:

- You will receive an email confirmation stating that you have applied to the scholarship.



- ## 24
- You can also verify your application status on the ScholarsApp search page under the "Applied" section.

- ## 25
- Click the human icon on the top right corner of your screen
In the dropdown click "Search Page"



26 Click the "Applied" section.

The screenshot shows the Scholarships page with a left sidebar for filters and a main content area. The filters include:

- General requirements**
- Scholarship name**: Search input field
- Deadline**: 8/20/2024
- GPA**: Range from 0.00 to 5.00
- Graduation year**: Dropdown menu
- Checkboxes for:
 - For students with financial need
 - For students who performed community service
 - For first-generation college students
- Application materials**: Clear Application materials

The main content area has tabs for Suggested, Qualified, Discarded, In progress, Pending applications, and Applied (highlighted with an orange circle). Below the tabs is a toggle for "Show only saved scholarships" and a "Scholarships" section with 11 results. The first result is:

VFW - Patriot's Pen - Virginia - District 6 - Post 1841
10/31/24 (CT) \$ \$0 - \$5,000

Conducted nationwide, this VFW-sponsored youth essay competition gives students an opportunity to write essays expressing their views on an annual patriotic theme. We invite chooses the year's theme. The 2024-2025 theme is: **"My Voice in America's Democracy?"** The contest consists of four levels. The first level (entry) is sponsored by VFW Posts, Post Department (state) level. The first-place winner at the Department level is then advanced into the VFW national competition. Prizes and scholarships can be awarded at the Post, least \$500. **The first-place national award is currently \$5,000.** All entries are submitted at the Post level. Contestants are allowed to enter only once each year if otherwise eligible or parochial schools in the U.S., its territories or its possessions; or dependents of U.S. military or civilian personnel in overseas schools. Home-schooled students also are eligible. application which has not been denied) and intends to become a U.S. citizen at the earliest opportunity allowed by law. (Foreign exchange students or former winners that placed

- You must write your own essay. The essay must be the contestant's original work and product of the contestant's own thinking.
- Use of ChatGPT or other AI tools is not allowed.
- Essays should be typed in English with no color or graphics. 300 - 400 words in length (+ or - 5 words max). Every word is counted.
- In no way may the contestants identify themselves within their essay** (including, but not limited to, your name, school, city, state, race or national origin.)
- Do not put your name on your essay.

Judging Criteria:

- Knowledge of the theme is worth 30 points:** You must show a thorough knowledge of the theme in your work. Demonstrate that you have researched the issue extensively.
- Theme development is worth 35 points:** Answer all relevant facts about the theme, such as the who, what, where, when and why. Relate the theme to your own experience
- Clarity of Ideas is worth 35 points:** Write your essay in an easy-to-understand format. Leave your reader with a clear understanding of your explanation of the theme.

... (show more)

Essay(s) Required

27 In the "Applied" section, you can review and edit the scholarships that you already applied.

The screenshot shows the Applied section of the Scholarships page. The scholarship listing is:

VFW - Voice of Democracy - Test Department - District 1 - Post 1234
10/31/24 () \$ \$0 - \$35,000

Essay(s) Required

A heart icon is visible to the right of the scholarship title.

28 By following these steps, you can efficiently apply for scholarships using the ScholarsApp platform.