



2024 LAFAYETTE ESSAY CONTEST

SPONSORED BY THE AMERICAN FRIENDS OF LAFAYETTE

Who is Lafayette, and What Does He Mean to America, Then and Now?

TERMS OF ENTRY

- The promoter of the contest is the American Friends of Lafayette (AFL).
- Entry to the AFL contest is FREE and no purchase is necessary to enter or win the prizes.
- Work must be original (not copied). AI-generated work will be disqualified.
- We cannot publish work without permission. If the work is chosen as a winner, the work will be published on our website & media.
- Contest is open to 4th and 5th grade students.
- Contest application date is **January 18, 2024** and deadline of online essay submission online is **March 18, 2024**.

TO ENTER THE 2024 LAFAYETTE ESSAY CONTEST:

- Complete online contest application form by **January 18, 2024** at: www.epicorderoftheseven.com/essay. You will be asked to provide a 6-Digit Code that will be YOUR unique essay entry number, so write it down and keep it in a safe place. You will use this code when you submit your essay so the judges will judge essays fairly and anonymously.
- Email completed essay by **March 18, 2024** to jenny@epicorderoftheseven.com with subject line: 2024 LAFAYETTE ESSAY CONTEST SUBMISSION.

ESSAY CONTEST DETAILS

- 2024 Essay Theme: Who is Lafayette, and What Does He Mean to America, Then and Now?
- Essay Scoring Rubric is Provided
- Central idea of the essay is clear, related to the prompt, and developed.
- Paraphrase and analysis of material supports the thesis.
- Organization of ideas uses the logical structure, clear paragraphs with appropriate transitions and cites sources accurately.
- Grammar and mechanics effectively communicate meaning.
- Contest winners will be announced at the online AFL meeting the weekend of June 6.
- Prize Categories: 1st, 2nd, 3rd, Honorable Mention, International Honorable Mention



2024 LAFAYETTE ESSAY CONTEST

SPONSORED BY THE AMERICAN FRIENDS OF LAFAYETTE

Who is Lafayette, and What Does He Mean to America, Then and Now?

WINNING CRITERIA

- Our judges look for writing that is clear, articulate, and logically organized. Essays should stay on topic, address all parts of the prompt and rubric, and interrelate the ideas.
- Winners are chosen based on the criteria above.
- Winners are picked through a panel of AFL judges
- Winners are: 1st Place, 2nd Place, 3rd Place, Honorable Mention and International Honorable Mention
- Student entry winners' names, ages, schools (if applicable), essay will be published on the AFL website and AFL Gazette and media (permission to publish must have been given by parents/guardians before the deadline January 18, 2024 to March 18, 2024).
- By accepting the prize, student winners agree to their name, age, school (if applicable), essay being displayed in the AFL website and published in the AFL Gazette and in a press release to the media.
- There is no purchase necessary to win a prize.
- Winners are notified in writing.

PRIZES

- All entrants receive an AFL award package including a digital certificate of achievement, a 2024-2025 Junior AFL Membership card, and all AFL membership news and event emails for 2024-2025.
- Contest winners will receive cash awards: 1st Place: \$1,000, 2nd Place: \$500, 3rd Place: \$250, Honorable Mention: \$50.
- All contest winners will receive a printed certificate and an AFL gift package to include bicentennial merchandise and a collection of Lafayette books.
- Contest winners will be invited to attend (at their own expense) the August 16, 2024 AFL Meeting in New York to be recognized and to read their essays.



2024 LAFAYETTE ESSAY RUBRIC

SPONSORED BY THE AMERICAN FRIENDS OF LAFAYETTE

Who is Lafayette, and What Does He Mean to America, Then and Now?

ELEMENTS

CRITERIA

POINTS POSSIBLE

Paragraph #1

Introduction

- Introduction paragraph with hook sentence, introduction sentence with Lafayette, thesis sentence stating bio, accomplishments during the American Revolution, and importance for Americans now

Overall Essay Formatting:
5 points

Content:
12 points

Paragraph #2

Lafayette's Biography

- Provide biographical summary of Lafayette's life, character and events using text evidence.

Content:
25 points

Paragraph #3

Lafayette's importance during the American Revolution

- Explain why Lafayette was important during the American Revolution, showing his contribution to American independence using text evidence for reasons.

Content:
25 points

Paragraph #4

Lafayette's importance to Americans now

- Explain why Lafayette is important to Americans now, with text evidence for reasons.

Content:
25 points

Paragraph #5

Conclusion

- Restate thesis sentence, restate one reason Lafayette was important in the past, one reason Lafayette continues to have an impact now
- List at least 3 resources

Content: **8 points**

Correctly listing 3 sources:
6 points

TOTAL POSSIBLE POINTS: 106



LAFAYETTE GRADING RUBRIC

Who is Lafayette, and What Does He Mean to America, Then and Now?

OVERALL ESSAY FORMATTING	POINTS POSSIBLE	POINTS EARNED
Underlined Title with Capitalization	1	
Contestant #	1	
14 Point Font, Times New Roman	1	
Skip 1-2 lines between paragraphs	1	
Consistent block or indented paragraphs (use tab)	1	
OVERALL ESSAY FORMATTING TOTAL POINTS	5	

Contestant #: _____ Judge: _____

Comments: _____



LAFAYETTE GRADING RUBRIC

Who is Lafayette, and What Does He Mean to America, Then and Now?

INTRODUCTION PARAGRAPH	POINTS POSSIBLE	POINTS EARNED
1st sentence: Hook (*see examples)	3	
2nd sentence: Introduction sentence about General Lafayette	3	
3rd sentence: Thesis: stating the 3 areas of Lafayette you will be writing about (short biography, why he was important during the American Revolution, why he is important to Americans now)	4	
Uses appropriate key words (correct name, quotes)	1	
Well-edited with few spelling errors, correct grammar and sentence structure.)	1	
INTRODUCTION TOTAL POINTS	12	

Contestant #: _____ Judge: _____

Comments: _____



LAFAYETTE GRADING RUBRIC

Who is Lafayette, and What Does He Mean to America, Then and Now?

FIRST BODY PARAGRAPH – BIOGRAPHY

POINTS
POSSIBLE

POINTS
EARNED

Introduction sentence stating what paragraph is about

2

At least 4 sentences about Lafayette's
early life (include text evidence)

8

At least 4 sentences about Lafayette's
later life (include text evidence)

8

Conclusion sentence - what you learned about
Lafayette's character

2

Text evidence

2

Uses appropriate keywords

1

Transition words between early life and later life

1

Well-edited with few spelling errors, correct grammar and
sentence structure.

1

BIOGRAPHY TOTAL POINTS

25

Contestant #: _____ Judge: _____

Comments: _____



LAFAYETTE GRADING RUBRIC

Who is Lafayette, and What Does He Mean to America, Then and Now?

SECOND BODY PARAGRAPH – LAFAYETTE'S IMPACT DURING THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

POINTS
POSSIBLE

POINTS
EARNED

Introduction Sentence - Impact Then

2

At least 8 sentences

16

Conclusion sentence: what was learned about
Lafayette's character

2

Text evidence

2

Uses appropriate keywords

1

Uses transition words

1

Well-edited with few spelling errors, correct grammar
and sentence structure.

1

IMPACT THEN TOTAL POINTS

25

Contestant #: _____ Judge: _____

Comments: _____



LAFAYETTE GRADING RUBRIC

Who is Lafayette, and What Does He Mean to America, Then and Now?

THIRD BODY PARAGRAPH – LAFAYETTE'S

IMPACT ON AMERICANS NOW

POINTS

POSSIBLE

POINTS

EARNED

Introduction Sentence - Impact Now

2

At least 8 sentences

16

Conclusion sentence: what is the major impact on Americans now?

2

Text evidence

2

Uses appropriate keywords

1

Uses transition words

1

Well-edited with few spelling errors, correct grammar and sentence structure.

1

IMPACT NOW TOTAL POINTS

25

Contestant #: _____ Judge: _____

Comments: _____



LAFAYETTE GRADING RUBRIC

Who is Lafayette, and What Does He Mean to America, Then and Now?

CONCLUSION PARAGRAPH

POINTS
POSSIBLE

POINTS
EARNED

Restates thesis with 3 paragraph topics

2

Restates (differently) an important "then"
fact from essay

2

Conclusion sentence : State the way Lafayette
has an impact on YOU.

4

CONCLUSION TOTAL POINTS

8

RESOURCES

Lists at least 3 resources correctly

6

TOTAL ESSAY SCORE

106

Contestant #: _____ Judge: _____

Comments: _____
