



NEW YORK  
archives  
magazine

Essay  
Competition

OCTOBER IS  
AMERICAN  
ARCHIVES  
MONTH

## Guidelines

### INTRODUCTION:

In honor of American Archives Month, the award-winning *New York Archives* magazine announces its first annual essay competition to promote and recognize excellence in collegiate student research. The purpose of the competition is to encourage undergraduate and graduate students to explore the wealth of resources held in archival repositories across New York State.

Winning essays will be published in *New York Archives*, a quarterly publication of New York State Archives Partnership Trust. *New York Archives* highlights New York State history based on research using primary sources. *New York Archives* is not an academic journal. It is designed to appeal to a general audience with an interest in the history of New York State. This graphically rich publication is designed to be accessible to the general reader. The length of articles does not exceed 1,800 words, and the features are designed as 2- to 4-page spreads. Writers can read select articles by visiting [Magazine Highlights](#).

In addition to a published article, winners will receive a cash prize and a year long subscription to *New York Archives*.

### ELIGIBILITY

Entrants must be current full or part-time undergraduate and graduate students, or recent graduates who graduated within six months of June 1, 2020.

### REQUIREMENTS

The paper must be written in English and follow these requirements:

- Research topic must be related to New York State history and should rely primarily on primary sources from archival repositories located in New York State.
- Submission lengths are 750 to 1,800 words. Writers should also include a sidebar of approximately 100–200 words that highlights the primary sources used for in the article.
- Papers must be submitted via email: [aptrust@nysed.gov](mailto:aptrust@nysed.gov) with the subject line:  
**NY Archives Essay Competition.**
- Submissions should be MSWord (DOC or DOCX) format, 12-point font and double-spaced. Footnotes or endnotes are required.
- Only one research paper will be considered from each entrant; multiple entries by the same author will not be accepted.
- Must include entry form with name, contact information, and the academic institution in which the entrant is enrolled or recently graduated from.

## **JUDGES AND CRITERIA**

Competition judges include the *New York Archives* editorial board, New York State Archives staff, and Trust volunteers. The judges will select the winning essay based on the following criteria:

- To what extent has the student used primary sources?
- Is the article accurate?
- Does the article demonstrate an understanding of historical context and place the story within that context?
- Does the article demonstrate analysis of the topic, not just a presentation of the facts? Does this analysis present a new perspective?
- Does the article answer a research question in depth, using analysis and interpretation of the primary sources?
- Is the article narratively focused?
- Is the article well written and readable by a general audience?

## **DEADLINE**

Entries must be submitted by **11:59 P.M. on July 1, 2020.**

## **AWARDS**

First place undergraduate students will receive a cash prize of \$200. First place graduate students will receive a cash prize of \$300. Winners will also receive a one-year subscription to *New York Archives*, and the essay will be published in *New York Archives* magazine. Winners will be asked to submit a brief biography and photograph for the Contributors section of the magazine.

First, second and third place students will be announced on the Archives Partnership Trust website and in *New York Archives*. Winners will also be honored at an awards ceremony in October 2020 celebrating American Archives Month.