



# 3rd Annual DEMOCRACY AND CIVIC ACTION WEEK ESSAY CONTEST

"DESIGNING A FUTURE FOR DEMOCRACY"



Submission Deadline  
Sept. 10 by 5pm  
Length: 500-750 words

[Submission Link](#)



Department of Writing  
UNIVERSITY of ALASKA ANCHORAGE

A democracy is always a work in progress. The work of democratic life--solving shared problems, shaping policy, enacting change, making grievances heard--relies on participation of the body politic and healthy interaction between elected leaders and citizens. The body politic relies on people willing to engage in governing.

## Essay Questions

In the interest of designing a healthy future for our democracy, this year's essay contest invites you to speak to the following questions:

- What are the vital signs of a healthy democracy?
- How can citizens support a system that grants people the power to shape their own futures?

## Eligibility

Open to students in the Municipality of Anchorage who are enrolled in grades 9-12 (public, private or home study program) or enrolled in a minimum of 6 credit hours at the the University of Alaska Anchorage.

## Sponsored Prizes



**THE ALASKA LANDMINE**  
EXPLOSIVE ALASKA NEWS

Landmine Grand Prize \$500



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS'  
ANCHORAGE

College Division

Informed Voter \$250

High School Division

Youth Voice \$250

## Awards Ceremony

Friday, Sept. 18, 6pm via Zoom

## Judging Criteria

**Originality:** Treatment of the theme shows imagination and human interest.

**Focus:** The writing focuses on and develops a central idea as a sign of a healthy democracy (and does not try to cover everything)

**Reasoning:** The writer offers reasons to connect specific claims to conclusions and in doing so provides a reasoned argument.

**Evidence:** The writer backs up or supports the claims and reasons by citing sources and evidence. [hyperlinks acceptable; standard bibliographic citation encouraged]

**Coherence:** The writing develops the contest theme in an organized manner, connecting parts to a greater whole with transitions.

## Community Panel of Judges

Lo Crawford, Bridge Builders

Monica Elkington-Englund, Anchorage Women's Commission

Berta Gardner, Alaska Senator

Cale Green, Cale Green Productions

Marla Greenstein, Commission on Judicial Conduct

Jeff Landfield, Alaska Landmine

Emily Lescak, UAA Post-doctoral Fellow in Biology

Katie Jo Parrott, Ketchikan Gateway Borough School District

Kyle Shedd, Biologist, Alaska Department of Fish and Game

Peg Tileston, Alaska Common Ground

Paxson Woelber, PaxsonDesign.com

Meg Alison Zalatel, Anchorage Assembly

Cari Zawodny, League of Women Voters