



Essay Contest

To commemorate the 30th anniversary of the passing of the Civil Liberties Act, the San Diego chapter of the JACL is sponsoring an essay contest. This contest is open to full-time college and high school students, who were either residence of, or attending school in San Diego County during the 2017–2018 academic year. The winner of each division will receive a cash prize of \$500.00. This contest requires that you interview someone who:

- was interned during World War II pursuant to Executive Order 9066; or
- was involved with the redress movement through the various Japanese American groups such as the Japanese American Citizens League (JACL), National Committee for Redress (NCR) and National Association of Redress/Reparations (NCRR); or
- gave testimony before the Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians (CWRIC).

To enter, email this application form and your essay as email attachments to **SDJACLessay@gmail.com** by **5:00 p.m., July 31, 2018**. If you would like to participate but need help finding a qualified person to interview, email us at this same address no later than June 15, 2018. Winners will be notified by August 31, 2018, and receive two complimentary tickets to attend the San Diego JACL Gala on September 15, 2018.

Application Form

(This is a writeable PDF.)

_____	_____
first name	last name
_____	_____
name of high school or college	school address

home mailing address	
_____	_____
preferred contact telephone number	email

Information about Interviewee

_____	_____
first name	last name (include maiden name in parenthesis)

In 100 words or less, provide background information about the interviewee in the form field below.

Contest Scope and Vision

The purpose of this contest is to give young people the unique opportunity to learn about an important piece of national legislation from someone who was profoundly affected by it. In the definitive book, *Achieving the Impossible Dream: How Japanese Americans Obtained Redress*, on the 10 year struggle of the Japanese American community to attain redress for their unjust incarceration during World War II which culminated in the passing of the Civil Liberties Act in 1988, Maki, Kitano and Berthold write:

Having waited over four decades to have their stories heard, the Issei and Nisei spoke in front of the commission frequently delivered impassioned testimony, often times accompanied by tears and painful emotions. The silence of forty years was broken as audience members applauded, jeered and booed, and expressed their anger.

The voices of the community reminded the commissioners, as well as the general U.S. public, that redress was about more than lofty principles, historical revision, and constitutional issues. Redress was about real people who had endured real suffering. Redress was a human issue.¹

Essay Topic

Incorporating some of the insights you gained from the interview, discuss the importance of the passing of the Civil Liberties Act. How is the passing of this piece of legislation which is so intensely personal and meaningful to the Japanese American community—a small minority group constituting less than one percent of the U.S. population—still relevant and compelling for all Americans today?

Guidelines for conducting the interview

The interview may be conducted in person, over the telephone, or through a real-time audio/visual media such as Skype.

Essay Criteria

Your essay should be submitted as a word .doc or .xdoc file.

Font—Use any easy to read 12 pt font.

Spacing—Your essay should be double spaced.

Length—Not counting title and references, your essay should be between 400 and 500 words in length.

References—Your essay must include a list of at least three references which you consulted. These references can be from printed or online sources.

Style Guide—You may use either the MLA, Chicago or APA style manual for citations and reference formatting.

Email your application and essay to **SDJACLessay@gmail.com**

Deadline: July 31, 2018

¹Mitchell T. Maki, Harry H. L. Kitano, and S. Megan Berthold, *Achieving the Impossible Dream: How Japanese Americans Obtained Redress*, (Urbana and Chicago: University of Illinois Press), 106.