

## George Mason Essay Contest

George Mason, the writer of the Virginia Declaration of Rights, knew the importance of words. Today, we invite all 4<sup>th</sup> grade students and classes to follow his example by sharing their ideas through the George Mason Essay Contest.

### This year's question:

George Mason set an example in helping his community by writing Virginia's constitution and by protecting certain individual rights. How can you help make your community a better place?

### First Place Prize

\$75

PLUS a scholarship to Gunston Hall's Writing Workshop on March 28, 2020.

The winner's teacher receives a complimentary class field trip or outreach session.

### Criteria

The contest is open to students in 4<sup>th</sup> grade. Essays should be a maximum of 500 words.

The rubric for evaluating essays is based on the Virginia Standards of Learning for Language Arts. Essays will be evaluated for:

- Connection to the question
- Clarity and organization
- Grammar, punctuation, and spelling

Judging is at the discretion of representatives of Gunston Hall, and will be blind and anonymous. The contest closes March 13, 2020.

Visit <https://bit.ly/37rgQyJ> to collect an entry form. Please use one form per student. For any questions, please contact Dylan McCartney – School and Youth Programs Coordinator at [dylan.mccartney@gunstonhall.org](mailto:dylan.mccartney@gunstonhall.org)

Don't forget about our

### *Annual Writers' Workshop at Gunston Hall*

Open to all 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Graders

Saturday, March 28, 2020, 10 am-4 pm

Registration is required, and space is limited. \$18 per student.