

12TH ANNUAL
SANTA CLARITA VALLEY BAR ASSOCIATION

HIGH SCHOOL ESSAY / SPEECH COMPETITION



*featuring junior and senior students
from the William S. Hart Union High School District*

PROMPT:

"The President ... shall have the power to grant reprieves and pardons for offenses against the United States, except in cases of impeachment."

-- U.S. Constitution, Article II, Section 2, Clause 1

Although generally considered a "plenary power," do you feel the existing pardon power should remain unchallenged?

Explain & support your position, citing any relevant legal authority/case law.

AWARDS

1st PLACE: \$1000.00

2nd PLACE: \$750.00

3rd PLACE: \$500.00

ESSAY DUE: APRIL 4, 2025

FINALISTS CHOSEN: APRIL 7, 2025

ORAL COMPETITION: APRIL 17, 2025

All interested junior and senior class students should contact Sarah Hunt, Executive Assistant at the SCV Bar Association for sign-up instructions, forms, and questions (see below for contact information).

The overall scoring will be based on the oral presentations, however, every interested student must provide a draft essay of their speech no later than April 4th, in order to be considered for selection to the April 17th oral competition. The draft essays submitted need not be the final product for the oral competition and in fact, students are encouraged to continue perfecting the content and delivery of their speech up until the actual competition. Speeches will be a maximum of 4 minutes in length. The oral competition will be hosted at West Ranch High School's Auditorium on Thursday, April 17, 2025 at 6:00 p.m. No props. A scoring rubric will be provided to participating students for their review.

Students selected to participate in the oral competition will be notified by telephone and/or email on or before April 7, 2025. A maximum of 15 students from the William S. Hart District high schools will be selected.

The scoring panel will be comprised of Los Angeles Superior Court Judges. Business attire is suggested. All students who are selected to present at the oral competition will receive printed recognition of their achievement. The overall top three presenting students during the oral competition will be recognized at a special event of the SCV Bar Association on May 6, 2025.

TO SIGN UP AND FOR MORE INFO:

Email: info@scvbar.org | Phone: 661.505.8670