

## WRITING PROMPT

Concord250: Still heard 'round the world

Student Essay Contest

Hi Group,

I am satisfied with this as written; the only changes are reflected in tense and voice. It is ready to be sent to potential participating schools and participants. I've sent this rewrite to a select few to be critiqued before it is presented to our full subcommittee. What d'ya say?

*In the year 2025, Concord, MA and the nation will commemorate the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the beginning of the American Revolution—"The shot heard 'round the world". Fifty years from now (2075-76), we will celebrate 300 years of national independence—the tricentennial. Fifty years ago, you, our contestants, were not here at the Bicentennial celebration (1975), but it is quite likely that your parents or grandparents were, and they may have been in Concord. Ask them about the changes and progress that have occurred in the nation and have been seen in Concord. or that they have experienced in the past 50 years.*

*It is likely that you, our contestants, will be here to experience the Tricentennial commemoration in Concord. What do you envision will have changed and become self-evident 50 years from now? What will be the predominant features of life in the nation, physically or ideologically; or in Concord? What will have changed; what will have progressed or regressed; what will be the central or peripheral features of life in the nation or town? What will draw new residents to Concord, or what will cause residents to leave? Any of these and all other topics can be the issues that you may look into to foresee and describe what will be known and common in the year 2075. Your essay is to describe what will be. What do you think?*

The Community Participation sub-Committee of the Concord250 Committee—Still heard ‘round the world—is sponsoring an essay contest for students in grades 9 – 12 who live in or attend school in Concord, MA. All interested students are being challenged to write an essay of 1000 words or less, to express your expectations and predictions and give your depiction of life and events in 2075 in response to the above ideas. One thousand words is not much, so be as concise and precise as you know how. Use standard written English grammar and mechanics. Give details and examples as needed and cite sources for specialized information that is not your own. Your essay will be evaluated on its clarity, feasibility, use of plausible examples, supporting events, and original concepts. In 2075, you will be able to reread your essay and realize how accurate your vision and prediction was.

We thank you for your willingness to participate and offer your thoughts and expectations on our future. Our evaluation committee will read your essay and will select from all entries received 5 entries that are judged to best develop and detail their vision of what will be, in accord with the criteria given above. All entrants will receive a certificate of participation and the best 5 selected entries will receive \_\_\_\_\_ as well as have their entry published in a special edition of *The Concord Review*, a nationally circulated Journal of historical essays written by secondary school students.

Please note, we still have no decision about a cash prize. Along with this, we need to schedule the due dates for entries and notification of winners.

Joe Zellner