



Brainerd VFW, 309 So. 6<sup>th</sup> St.  
Brainerd, MN 56401 Details at:  
<https://www.brainerdvfw.org/vod>

# voice of democracy

MN 2019-2020 OFFICIAL ENTRY FORM MN VOICE OF DEMOCRACY COMPETITION

**MUST BE COMPLETED BY ALL ENTRANTS**

**SUBMIT WITH CD, COPY OF SPEECH & \*\*STUDENT PHOTO\*\***

Name: First, M.I., Last \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

(\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_  
Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth (day, month, year) \_\_\_\_\_ Grade in School \_\_\_\_\_ Age at time of D.C. Trip \_\_\_\_\_

School Name, City, State \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Teacher \_\_\_\_\_ Teacher Email (If applicable) \_\_\_\_\_

First Name You'd Like on Your Badge \_\_\_\_\_ Jacket Size (XS,S, M, L, XL, XXL) \_\_\_\_\_

### **TO BE COMPLETED BY STUDENT AND STUDENT'S PARENT/GUARDIAN**

Parent/Guardian PRINTED Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_ (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian's Daytime Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian's E-mail \_\_\_\_\_ Parent/Guardian Signature \_\_\_\_\_

## **2019-20 THEME** **"What Makes America Great"**

### **THE RULES**

**Who can enter?** The Voice of Democracy is open to students in grades 9-12, who are enrolled in a public, private or parochial high school or home study program in the United States, its territories and possessions; or in an overseas U.S. military/civilian dependent school. Foreign exchange students, students over age 20 and previous Voice of Democracy first place state winners are ineligible. **What do I need to enter?** Record your original 3-5 minute (+ or - 5 seconds) essay on this year's theme onto a CD or flash drive. Label your CD or flash drive, neatly typed essay and a picture with your name and complete the entry form. Provide these four items to your school/group competition or your local VFW Post for judging. All recordings must be in your own voice (hearing or speech impaired students should contact the Voice of Democracy National Office at (816) 968-1117 for special instructions), without music, special effects or background sounds. Songs and poetry are not acceptable. You may not provide anything in the essay or recording that will identify you in any way. You may enter only one Voice of Democracy competition per year. **Where do I submit my entry?** To advance to the next level, all entries must be judged at the VFW Post level. The only exception is where schools/classes/youth groups have large numbers of students and wish to conduct their own competition, submitting one winner for each 15 students to the local VFW Post competition. Individual students may submit their entry directly to the local VFW Post provided they have not competed at a school/class competition. VFW Post winners compete at the VFW District level. District winners compete at the VFW Department (state) level. Department winners receive an expense-paid trip to Washington, D.C. to compete at the VFW National level. All winners must begin at the Post level. **What is the deadline for my entry? All entries competing at the Post level must be in the hands of that VFW Post by midnight, Oct 31, 2019 It is the responsibility of the student to meet this deadline by submitting their entry to the proper location.** To identify a sponsoring Post in your area, Contact the Department MN VFW at 651-291-1757

### **WHAT ARE THE JUDGING CRITERIA?**

**Originality is worth 30 points:** Treatment of the theme should show imagination and human interest  
**Content is worth 35 points:** Clearly express your ideas in an organized manner. Fully develop your theme and use transitions to move smoothly from one idea to another.  
**Delivery is worth 35 Points:** Speak in a clear and credible manner.