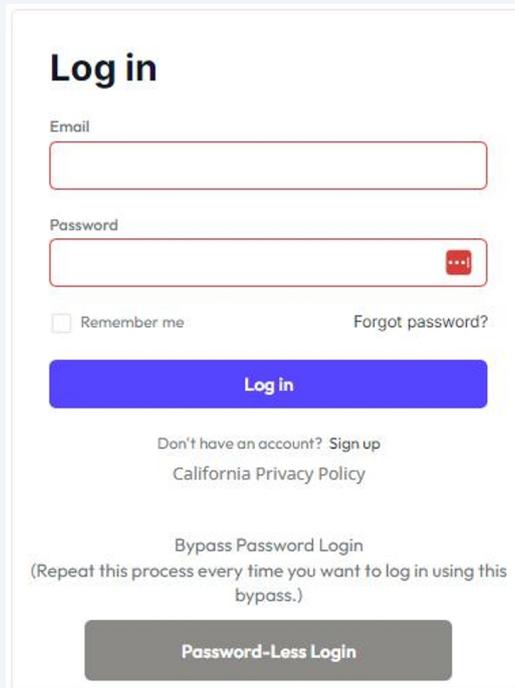


VFW - Voice of Democracy - Application Tutorial

1

Students that have an existing login with Scholar's App can navigate to <https://scholarsapp.com/login> and login using email and password



The screenshot shows a login form titled "Log in". It features two input fields: "Email" and "Password". The "Password" field has a red eye icon to toggle visibility. Below the fields are two links: "Remember me" (with an unchecked checkbox) and "Forgot password?". A prominent blue "Log in" button is centered below these links. Underneath the button are two links: "Don't have an account? Sign up" and "California Privacy Policy". At the bottom, there is a section for "Bypass Password Login" with the instruction "(Repeat this process every time you want to log in using this bypass.)" and a grey "Password-Less Login" button.

2

If you do not have an existing ScholarsApp account

Navigate to <https://scholarsapp.com/login?m=signup> and create your account

Enter your email address, create a password, agree to the terms of service and privacy policy, and click "Continue."

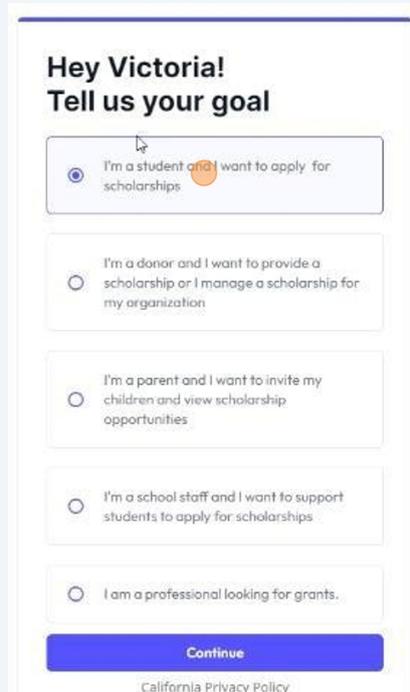
(Continue button will only be enable when the required fields are filled out)

The screenshot shows a 'Sign up' form with the following elements:

- Sign up** (Section Header)
- First name (Text input field)
- Last name (Text input field)
- Email (Text input field)
- Informational message: "We recommend you use a personal email instead of using your School's or Institution's email address. That way we guarantee you receive Scholar's App's email notifications." (Green box)
- Password (Text input field with a red eye icon for visibility toggle)
- I agree to the Terms of Service and Privacy Policy
- Continue button (Grey button with an orange circle)
- Have an account? Log in (Text link)
- California Privacy Policy (Text link)
- Bypass Password Login (Text link)
- (Repeat this process every time you want to log in using this bypass.) (Text)
- Password-Less Login button (Dark grey button)

3 Specifying Your Role:

- Select that you are a student wanting to apply for scholarships and click “Continue.”
- If a parent is signing up on behalf of a student, create one student account per child.



Hey Victoria!
Tell us your goal

I'm a student and I want to apply for scholarships

I'm a donor and I want to provide a scholarship or I manage a scholarship for my organization

I'm a parent and I want to invite my children and view scholarship opportunities

I'm a school staff and I want to support students to apply for scholarships

I am a professional looking for grants.

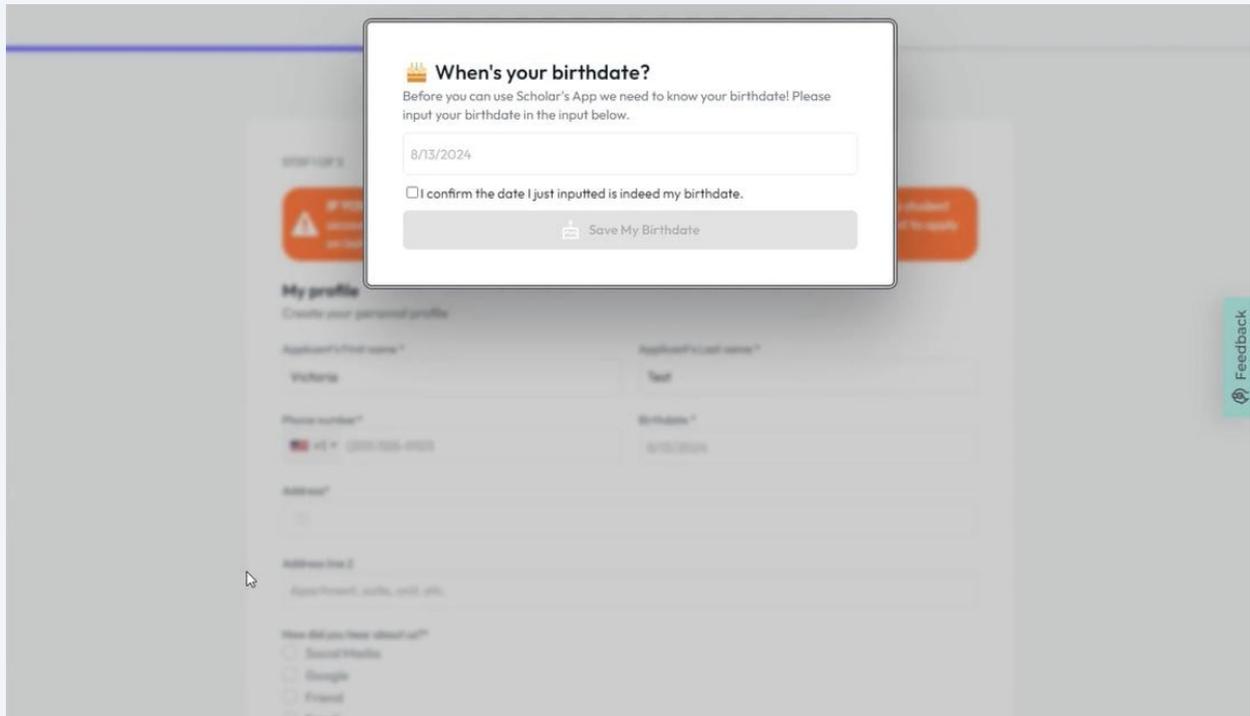
[Continue](#)

[California Privacy Policy](#)

4

Enter your birthdate to confirm you're above 13 years old.

(required for grades 9-12)



5

Fields marked with asterisk (*) are required information to proceed to the next step including name, phone number, and birthdate.

STEP 1 OF 3

IF YOU ARE A PARENT SIGNING UP ON BEHALF OF ONE OF YOUR KIDS: You should create one student account per kid that will be applying for a scholarship. You should not use the same student account to apply on behalf of more than 1 kid

My profile

Create your personal profile **Required**

Applicant's First name*

Applicant's Last name*

Phone number*

Birthdate*

Address*

Address line 2

How did you hear about us?*

Social Media

6

Steps 2 and 3 of the profile setup are optional but completing them can help narrow down scholarships that match your profile if you plan to use ScholarsApp further.

STEP 2 OF 3

About me

Add more information about yourself

Gender

Veteran status / affiliation

Ethnicity / racial identity

Religious / spiritual identity

Self-identification of disability

Other

I have financial need

I have performed community service

I was the first generation in my family to attend college

STEP 3 OF 3

Academic information

Add your education details

Academic year Study rate

High school High school graduation year

Areas of your studies, work and/or hobbies

Colleges you are applying to

Colleges you are currently attending

GPA Type of college you're considering

Fields of study

Athletic participation

7

After completing your profile setup, click "Sign up".

The screenshot shows a profile setup form with the following fields and options:

- Search bar: "Type to search..."
- Dropdown menu: "Pick an option..."
- Text input: "Areas of your studies, work and/or hobbies"
- Text input: "Colleges you are applying to"
- Text input: "Colleges you are currently attending"
- Text input: "GPA"
- Dropdown menu: "Type of college you're considering"
- Text input: "Fields of study"
- Text input: "Athletic participation"
- Checkboxes:
 - I would like to receive text message notifications
 - I would like to receive email notifications
- Buttons: "Go back" and "Sign up" (highlighted with an orange circle)

Feedback



8

Once you signed up, you will be redirected to the ScholarsApp search page and can now apply for scholarship.

(Instructions for using the VFW Flyer to apply for the scholarship are provided below)

The screenshot shows the ScholarsApp search interface. On the left, there are filters for 'General requirements' including Scholarship name, Deadline (8/13/2024), GPA (0.00 - 5.00), and Graduation year. Below these are checkboxes for 'For students with financial need', 'For students who performed community service', and 'For first-generation college students'. Under 'Application materials', there is a 'Transcript required' section with a 'Yes' radio button selected. The main area shows a list of scholarships. The first one is 'Patriots Pen VFW Post 7921' with a deadline of 9/14/24 and a prize amount that varies. It includes a description of the essay contest and a link to download the entry form. The second scholarship is 'PACE Leaders' with a deadline of 8/15/24 HST and a prize amount of \$1,000 - \$6,000. A banner below the second scholarship says 'Thousands in scholarships are available!' and features a photo of a group of students.

9

This is the VFW Flyer

The flyer is for the VFW Veterans of Foreign Wars 2024-2025 Competition. The main title is 'PATRIOT'S PEN AND VOICE OF DEMOCRACY Post 1234'. It features a quote from Rachel, a 2020 Prize Winner: "VFW made it possible for me to go to college." The flyer is divided into two main sections: 'PATRIOT'S PEN' and 'VOICE OF DEMOCRACY'. The 'PATRIOT'S PEN' section lists eligibility (6th-8th grade students), application deadline (October 31, 2024), and prize details (National Prize is currently \$5,000). It includes a QR code and the link bit.ly/4cx7pPE. The 'VOICE OF DEMOCRACY' section lists eligibility (grades 9-12), application deadline (October 31st), and prize details (National Prize is currently \$35,000). It includes a QR code and the link bit.ly/3XeNf8Q. At the bottom, there is a link to https://scholarsapp.com and logos for Scholar's App and Scholar's App Verified.

10 Access the VFW Scholarship using the ScholarsApp Platform:

- Scan the QR code provided in the VFW flyer.
- Alternatively, copy the link provided and paste it into your web browser to navigate directly to the specific scholarship page.

(Instruction on how to use the QR code and link at the bottom)

11 QR CODE



The flyer is for the VFW 2024-2025 Competition, specifically for the Patriot's Pen and Voice of Democracy contests. It features the VFW logo at the top left, a photo of a student receiving a prize at the top right, and a quote from a 2020 prize winner. The main title is 'Patriot's Pen and Voice of Democracy Post 1234'. Below this, it lists the application deadline as October 31, 2024, and provides eligibility criteria. The 'Patriot's Pen' section includes a QR code and a link to bit.ly/4cx7pPE. The 'Voice of Democracy' section includes another QR code and a link to bit.ly/3XeNf8Q. At the bottom, it provides the website URL https://scholarsapp.com and logos for the Scholar's App and Scholar's App Verified.

VFW
VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS

2024-2025 COMPETITION

**PATRIOT'S PEN AND
VOICE OF
DEMOCRACY**
Post 1234

APPLICATION DEADLINE:
OCTOBER 31, 2024

PATRIOT'S PEN

- Open to 6th, 7th and 8th grade students enrolled by the Oct. 31st deadline
- Submit a 300 – 400-word essay
- This year's theme is, "My Voice in America's Democracy?"
- National Prize is currently \$5,000

VOICE OF DEMOCRACY

- Open to students in grades 9-12 enrolled by Oct. 31st deadline
- Submit a 3–5-minute audio and written essay
- This year's theme is, "Is America Today Our Forefathers' Vision?"
- National Prize is currently \$35,000

<https://scholarsapp.com>

Scholar's App

SCHOLAR'S APP VERIFIED

12 LINK



VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS

2024-2025 COMPETITION

PATRIOT'S PEN AND VOICE OF DEMOCRACY

Post 1234



"FVW made it possible for me to go to college."
- Rachel 2020 Prize Winner

APPLICATION DEADLINE:
OCTOBER 31, 2024

ELIGIBILITY
Students must be lawful U.S. permanent residents or have applied for permanent residence (for which the application has not been denied) and intend to become a U.S. citizen at the earliest opportunity.

PATRIOT'S PEN

- Open to 6th, 7th and 8th grade students enrolled by the Oct. 31st deadline
- Submit a 300 – 400-word essay
- This year's theme is, "My Voice in America's Democracy?"
- National Prize is currently **\$5,000**



bit.ly/4cx7pPE



bit.ly/3XeNf8Q

VOICE OF DEMOCRACY

- Open to students in grades 9-12 enrolled by Oct. 31st deadline
- Submit a 3–5-minute audio and written essay
This year's theme is, "Is America Today Our Forefathers' Vision?"
- National Prize is currently **\$35,000**

<https://scholarsapp.com>



Scholar's App



SCHOLAR'S APP VERIFIED

How to use the QR code or a Link

13 How to scan QR Code on your mobile phone.

- **Open the camera app on your phone.**
- **Point at the QR Code**
- **Tap the Notification:**
 - A link will appear on your screen. Tap it to open the webpage.



14 Copy the link provided in the flyer and paste it into your web browser to navigate directly to the specific scholarship page.

15

After using the QR code or the link, you'll land on this page

Click "Qualify" to begin the application process.

SCHOLARSHIP DETAILS

VFW - Voice of Democracy - Test Department - District 1 - Post 1234

10/31/24 CST \$ 0 - 35,000

Since 1947, the Voice of Democracy has been the Veterans of Foreign Wars' (VFW's) premier scholarship program. Each year, nearly 27,000 high school students compete for more than \$2 million in scholarships and incentives. Students compete by writing and recording an audio essay on an annual patriotic theme. This year's theme is "Is America Today Our Forefathers' Vision?" Prizes and scholarships can be awarded at the Post, District, state and national level. Department (State) winners receive an all-expense-paid trip to Washington DC, to tour the city, be honored by the VFW and its Auxiliary and receive their portion of \$171,000 in national awards, the top award scholarship being \$35,000. All entries are submitted at the Post level. **Eligibility: The Voice of Democracy is open to students in grades 9-12 by the Oct. 31 deadline** who are enrolled in a public private or parochial high school or home study program in the United States, its territories and possessions; or dependents of U.S. military or civilian personnel in overseas schools. Although U.S. citizenship is not required, students must be lawful U.S. permanent residents or have applied for permanent residence (the application for which has not been denied) and intend to become a U.S. citizen at the earliest opportunity allowed by law. Foreign exchange students, students age 20 or over, previous Voice of Democracy first place state winners, GED or Adult Education Students are ineligible. **Essay & Video Instructions**

- Record your original 3-5 minute (+ or - 5 seconds max.) audio essay.
- You will submit the recording and typed essay via an upload to your Scholar's App application.
- You must be the sole author of your essay. The recording must be in your own voice and in English.
- Use of ChatGPT or other AI tools is not allowed.

Hearing/speech impaired students should email the Voice of Democracy National Office at youthscholarships@vfw.org for special instructions. **Note:**

- No music, singing, poetry or sound effects are allowed.
- The body of the essay must not identify you in any way, (including, but not limited to your name, school, city, state, race, or national origin).

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.

Essay(s) Required

Message Qualify

16

Verify that your current grade level matches the scholarship requirements, then click "Submit" to qualify.

Eligibility: VFW - Voice of Democracy - Test Department - District 1 - Post 1234

Answer questions below to see if you are eligible for this scholarship

I don't know if I qualify

Your current grade level matches one of the following: 2000, 2001, 2002 or 2004. I qualify Nope

Cancel Submit

Essay(s) Required

Message Qualify

17

You can now proceed to the application form.

Click "Apply"

SCHOLARSHIP DETAILS

VFW - Voice of Democracy - Test Department - District 1 - Post 1234 Qualified 

 10/31/24 CST  0 - 35,000

Since 1947, the Voice of Democracy has been the Veterans of Foreign Wars' (VFW's) premier scholarship program. Each year, nearly 27,000 high school students compete for more than \$2 million in scholarships and incentives. Students compete by writing and recording an audio essay on an annual patriotic theme. This year's theme is "**Is America Today Our Forefathers' Vision?**" Prizes and scholarships can be awarded at the Post, District, state and national level. Department (State) winners receive an all-expense-paid trip to Washington DC, to tour the city, be honored by the VFW and its Auxiliary and receive their portion of \$171,000 in national awards, the top award scholarship being \$35,000. All entries are submitted at the Post level. **Eligibility: The Voice of Democracy is open to students in grades 9-12 by the Oct. 31 deadline** who are enrolled in a public private or parochial high school or home study program in the United States, its territories and possessions; or dependents of U.S. military or civilian personnel in overseas schools. Although U.S. citizenship is not required, students must be lawful U.S. permanent residents or have applied for permanent residence (the application for which has not been denied) and intend to become a U.S. citizen at the earliest opportunity allowed by law. Foreign exchange students, students age 20 or over, previous Voice of Democracy first place state winners, GED or Adult Education Students are ineligible. **Essay & Video Instructions**

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- You must be the sole author of your essay. The recording must be in your own voice and in English.
- Use of ChatGPT or other AI tools is not allowed.

Hearing/speech impaired students should email the Voice of Democracy National Office at youthscholarships@vfw.org for special instructions. **Note:**

- No music, singing, poetry or sound effects are allowed.
- The body of the essay must not identify you in any way, (including, but not limited to your name, school, city, state, race, or national origin).

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- 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.

Essay(s) Required

Discard Message Apply

18 Filling Out the Application Form:

Complete all required fields marked with "Required".

Provide any additional information requested in the application form.

Note that the information in the application form is separate from your profile details.

(All fields marked as required are mandatory in order to submit the application)

APPLY TO SCHOLARSHIP

VFW - Voice of Democracy - Test Department - District 1 - Post 1234

Veterans of Foreign Wars 10/31/24 CST

STEP 1 OF 1

General
Student Information

First Name Required

M.I. Required

Last Name Required

Date of Birth (mm/dd/yyyy) Required

Phone Number (xxx) xxx-xxxx Required

Email Required

19

Specify the length of your audio file (in minutes) and avoid labeling the essay audio file with your name.

(You can return to this section after uploading/recording your audio file)

This year's theme is: "What Are the Greatest Attributes of Our Democracy?"

- The body of the audio and written essay must not identify you in any way, (including, but not limited to your name, school, city, state, race, or national origin)
- Audio essay length 3 - 5 minutes (+ or - 5 seconds max).
- You must be the sole author of your essay. Use of ChatGPT or other AI tools is not allowed.
- The recording must be in your own voice and in English.
- No music, singing, poetry or sound effects are allowed.

Audio length must be 3 - 5 minutes. How long is your audio file?

Required

You must not identify yourself in anyway (including, but not limited to, your name, school, city, state, race or national origin.)

You must not put your name on the written essay or naming of the audio file.

I did not put my name on the essay/audio file or identify myself in anyway.

Required

Yes

Please type your essay here. You can also copy and paste your essay text.

Required

20

You can type your essay on this section in the application form.

(There is a word counter in here)

The screenshot displays a form with three main sections:

- Section 1:** A text box with the prompt "I did not put my name on the essay/audio file or identify myself in anyway." and a "Required" label. A checkbox labeled "Yes" is checked.
- Section 2:** A text editor with the prompt "Please type your essay here. You can also copy and paste your essay text." and a "Required" label. The editor contains the text "test test test" and has a toolbar with icons for bold (B), italic (I), link, list, and headings (H1, H2). Below the editor, a "Word count: 0 words" label is shown, with an orange circle and arrow pointing to it from the text "word counter".
- Section 3:** An audio upload section with the prompt "Upload your audio essay here. MP3 file format accepted." It features a play button icon and the text "Reording Time: 0 seconds". Below this is a link that says "Upload audio file instead".

Instructions on how to upload your audio file

21

You can choose to upload your audio file as an MP3, record it directly on the platform, or upload it using a link.

(Further instructions below)

The screenshot displays a user interface for an audio essay submission. At the top is a rich text editor with a toolbar containing icons for bold (B), italic (I), link, list, heading 1 (H1), and heading 2 (H2). Below the editor is a text area containing several lines of "test" text. Underneath the text area, it says "Word count: 90 words".

The next section is titled "Upload your audio essay here. MP3 file format accepted." and contains an audio recorder interface. The recorder shows a play button icon and "Reording Time: 0 seconds". To the right of the recorder is an "upload button". A red arrow labeled "recorder" points to the play button, and another red arrow labeled "upload button" points to the button. Below the recorder is a link that says "Upload audio file instead" with a mouse cursor icon pointing to it.

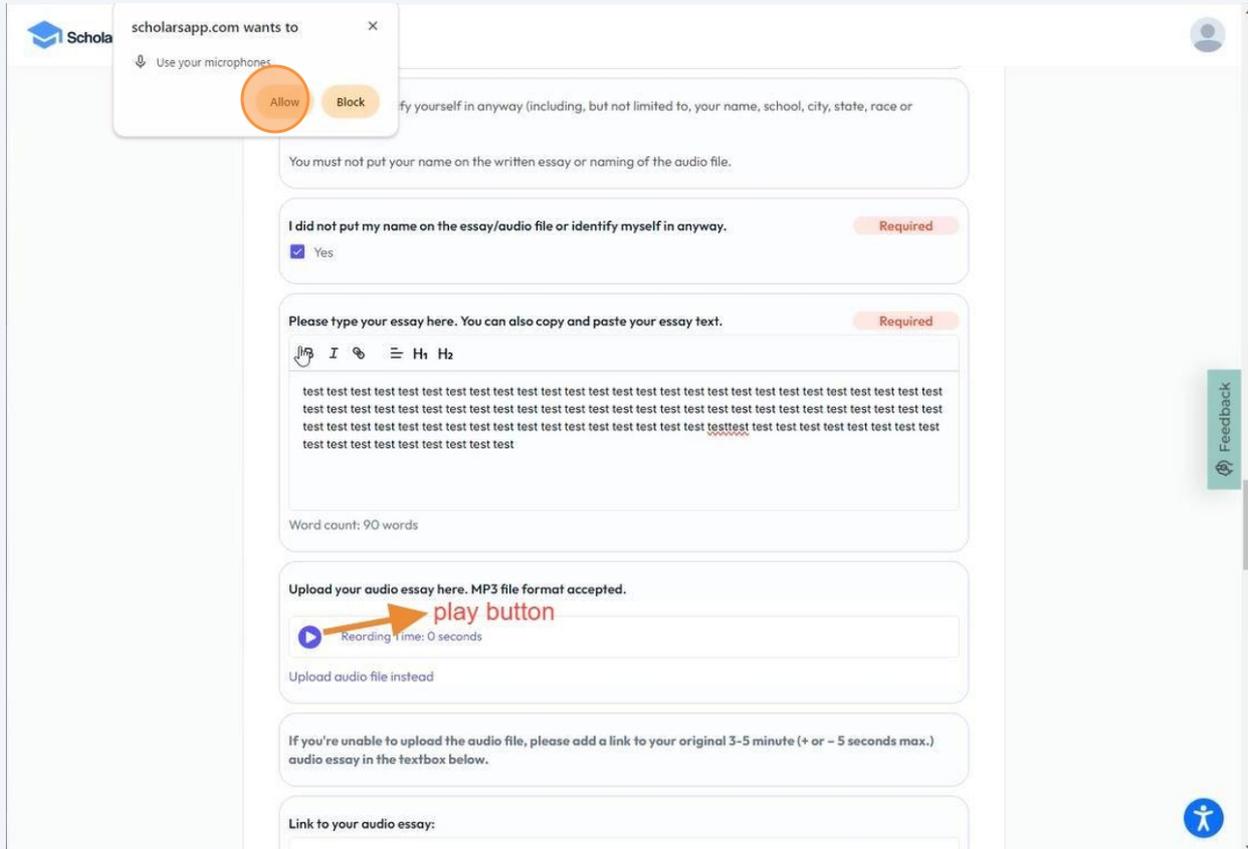
The following section contains the text: "If you're unable to upload the audio file, please add a link to your original 3-5 minute (+ or - 5 seconds max.) audio essay in the textbox below." Below this text is a text input field. A red arrow labeled "Link to your audio file" points to the input field.

At the bottom of the interface, there is a footer text: "Hearing/speech impaired students should email the Voice of Democracy National Office at".

How to use the recorder on the platform

22

Click the play button, and a prompt will appear asking for permission for ScholarsApp to access your device's microphone.



27

You can also paste the link of your audio file here. Just make sure that the link you provide is accessible to everyone, so anyone reviewing your application can listen to your audio.

Word count: 90 words

Upload your audio essay here. MP3 file format accepted.



Discard

Reording Time: 6 seconds

Upload audio file instead

If you're unable to upload the audio file, please add a link to your original 3-5 minute (+ or - 5 seconds max.) audio essay in the textbox below.

Link to your audio essay:

Hearing/speech impaired students should email the Voice of Democracy National Office at youthscholarships@vfw.org for special instructions.

28

To upload your headshot, click the "Upload" button, then select your file from your device. The file will be uploaded once selected.

Photo ^

Include a high resolution, forward-facing color headshot of the applicant, 300KB or larger.

Headshot Required

Click here to upload the required file

You will be required to provide a photo.

Participant Agreement ^

29

Finalizing the Application

Agree to the participant agreement by clicking the checkboxes

Once all required fields are completed, submit your application. You can edit your application until the deadline.

Participant Agreement ^

I will truthfully answer "Yes" to all the statements to be eligible for this scholarship.

Participant Agreement for Students Advancing to National Level

I am selected as a first-place state winner. I have the consent of my parent/guardian and school and the Voice of Democracy National Finals in Washington, D.C., as a guest of the VFW National Organization Required

Consideration for permission to participate in the National Voice of Democracy Competition ("Competition")

I hereby, for myself, for my heirs, executors, administrators and assignees, waive, release and discharge all rights and claims which I have or which may hereafter accrue against the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States (VFW) and/or the Departments (state organizations) of the Veterans of Foreign Wars and their respective officers, agents, assigns and assigns from any damages which may be sustained by me in connection with participation in or association with the Competition and/or arising out of any travel related Competition. Required

In the event of sickness, accident or injury in connection with the Competition, I consent to and Required

I accept the services of a duly licensed medical, surgical or dental specialist selected on my behalf and for such treatments, as they may deem necessary. I understand that VFW will not be liable for such treatments. Required

I further understand that the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States retains non-exclusive rights to use my audio file, essay, name and likeness in the promotion and execution of the organization's programs and activities. Required

Rules and Participant Agreement

I certify that I am the sole author of the enclosed audio/essay entry and that I have only entered the competition once yearly if otherwise eligible. I understand that if it is found that I have entered any other Post's competition or used this essay for another VFW competition, I face elimination from the competition and will return any and all prizes or incentives awarded. Required

I did not use ChatGPT or any other AI tool to write my essay. Required

I have read and understand the rules and participant agreement. Required

Student Signature

Signature of Student Participant (Type Name) Required

I did not use ChatGPT or any other AI tool to write my essay. Required

I have read and understand the rules and participant agreement. Required

Student Signature

Signature of Student Participant (Type Name) Required

Date Required

Parent Signature

Signature of Parent/Guardian (Type Name) Required

Text Required

30

Once all required fields are completed, you can either submit your application or save it if you're not ready to submit yet. You'll still have the option to edit your submission until the deadline.

The image shows a web form with several sections, each with a 'Required' label in a red pill shape on the right side:

- I have read and understand the rules and participant agreement.** (Required)
 Yes
- Student Signature**
- Signature of Student Participant (Type Name)** (Required)
Victoria Test
- Date** (Required)
08/13/2024
- Parent Signature**
- Signature of Parent/Guardian (Type Name)** (Required)
parent test
- Text** (Required)
08/13/2024

At the bottom of the form, there are two buttons: 'Save Application' and 'Submit Application'. Above these buttons, the text 'Save button' and 'Submit button' is written in red, with orange arrows pointing from the text to the respective buttons.

31 Confirmation:

- Once you submit your application, it will update as "applied" on your main page.

SCHOLARSHIP DETAILS

VFW - Voice of Democracy - Test Department - District 1 - Post 1234



📅 10/31/24 CST 💰 \$ 0 - 35,000

Since 1947, the Voice of Democracy has been the Veterans of Foreign Wars' (VFW's) premier scholarship program. Each year, nearly 27,000 high school students compete for more than \$2 million in scholarships and incentives. Students compete by writing and recording an audio essay on an annual patriotic theme. This year's theme is "**Is America Today Our Forefathers' Vision?**" Prizes and scholarships can be awarded at the Post, District, state and national level. Department (State) winners receive an all-expense-paid trip to Washington DC, to tour the city, be honored by the VFW and its Auxiliary and receive their portion of \$171,000 in national awards, the top award scholarship being \$35,000. All entries are submitted at the Post level. **Eligibility: The Voice of Democracy is open to students in grades 9-12 by the Oct. 31 deadline** who are enrolled in a public private or parochial high school or home study program in the United States, its territories and possessions; or dependents of U.S. military or civilian personnel in overseas schools. Although U.S. citizenship is not required, students must be lawful U.S. permanent residents or have applied for permanent residence (the application for which has not been denied) and intend to become a U.S. citizen at the earliest opportunity allowed by law. Foreign exchange students, students age 20 or over, previous Voice of Democracy first place state winners, GED or Adult Education Students are ineligible. **Essay & Video Instructions:**

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- You must be the sole author of your essay. The recording must be in your own voice and in English.
- Use of ChatGPT or other AI tools is not allowed.

Hearing/speech impaired students should email the Voice of Democracy National Office at youthscholarships@vfw.org for special instructions. **Note:**

- No music, singing, poetry or sound effects are allowed.
- The body of the essay must not identify you in any way, (including, but not limited to your name, school, city, state, race, or national origin).

Judging Criteria

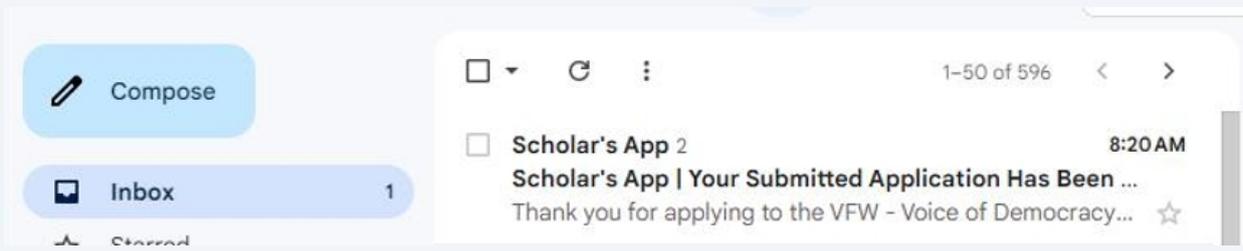
- **Originality is worth 30 points:** Treatment of the theme should show imagination and human interest.
- **Content is worth 35 points:** Clearly express your ideas in an organized manner. Fully develop your theme and use transitions to move smoothly from one idea to another.
- **Delivery is worth 35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

Essay(s) Required

[View Application](#)

32 Confirmation of Application:

- You will receive an email confirmation stating that you have applied to the scholarship.



- ## 33
- You can also verify your application status on the ScholarsApp search page under the "Applied" section.

- ## 34
- Click the human icon on the top right corner of your screen
In the dropdown click "Search Page"



35 Click the "Applied" section.

The screenshot shows a scholarship search interface. On the left, there are filters under the heading "FILTERS". The "General requirements" section includes fields for "Scholarship name" (with a search icon), "Deadline" (set to 8/20/2024), "GPA" (a slider from 0.00 to 5.00), and "Graduation year" (a dropdown menu). Below these are three checkboxes: "For students with financial need", "For students who performed community service", and "For first-generation college students". The "Application materials" section has a "Clear Application materials" link. On the right, there are tabs for "Suggested", "Qualified", "Discarded", "In progress", "Pending applications", and "Applied" (which is highlighted with an orange circle). Below the tabs is a toggle for "Show only saved scholarships" and a heading "Scholarships" with "11 results". The first result is "VFW - Patriot's Pen - Virginia - District 6 - Post 1841" with a deadline of 10/31/24 (CT) and a prize of \$0 - \$5,000. The description states: "Conducted nationwide, this VFW-sponsored youth essay competition gives students an opportunity to write essays expressing their views on an annual patriotic theme. We invite chooses the year's theme. The 2024-2025 theme is: **'My Voice in America's Democracy?'** The contest consists of four levels. The first level (entry) is sponsored by VFW Posts, Post Department (state) level. The first-place winner at the Department level is then advanced into the VFW national competition. Prizes and scholarships can be awarded at the Post, least \$500. **The first-place national award is currently \$5,000.** All entries are submitted at the Post level. Contestants are allowed to enter only once each year if otherwise eligible or parochial schools in the U.S., its territories or its possessions; or dependents of U.S. military or civilian personnel in overseas schools. Home-schooled students also are eligible. application which has not been denied) and intends to become a U.S. citizen at the earliest opportunity allowed by law. (Foreign exchange students or former winners that placed

- You must write your own essay. The essay must be the contestant's original work and product of the contestant's own thinking.
- Use of ChatGPT or other AI tools is not allowed.
- Essays should be typed in English with no color or graphics. 300 - 400 words in length (+ or - 5 words max). Every word is counted.
- **In no way may the contestants identify themselves within their essay** (including, but not limited to, your name, school, city, state, race or national origin.)
- Do not put your name on your essay.

Judging Criteria:

- **Knowledge of the theme is worth 30 points:** You must show a thorough knowledge of the theme in your work. Demonstrate that you have researched the issue extensively.
- **Theme development is worth 35 points:** Answer all relevant facts about the theme, such as the who, what, where, when and why. Relate the theme to your own experience
- **Clarity of Ideas is worth 35 points:** Write your essay in an easy-to-understand format. Leave your reader with a clear understanding of your explanation of the theme.

... (show more)

Essay(s) Required

36 In the "Applied" section, you can review and edit the scholarships that you already applied.

The screenshot shows a single scholarship card in the "Applied" section. The card title is "VFW - Voice of Democracy - Test Department - District 1 - Post 1234" with a deadline of 10/31/24 () and a prize of \$0 - \$35,000. The card has a heart icon on the right and a button that says "Essay(s) Required".

37 If you have any questions or encounter issues, reach out for assistance.