



CLOVIS
VETERANS
MEMORIAL DISTRICT

2020 Veterans Day Essay Contest Teacher's Guide- MIDDLE/INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL

2020 Theme: “Women in the Military”

The mission of the Clovis Veterans Memorial District (CVMD) is to ‘Provide a permanent living memorial honoring U.S. Military and Veterans; provide facilities and support programs to promote a legacy of service for preserving our community’s and country’s foundational ideals. Veterans Day is an opportunity to honor and give thanks to those who have served or are serving in the military, those who preserve the American way of life.

The resources included in this Teacher’s Guide can be used to talk to your class about the history of Veterans Day and introduce them to this year’s theme: “Women in the Military”

History of Veterans Day:

Veterans Day is held on November 11th, which began as a celebration of peace after World War I ended. It was originally called Armistice Day, to celebrate the truce signed between America and Germany during World War I. In 1954 the name was changed to Veterans Day, to honor all veterans.

Resources for teaching your students about Veterans Day:

[Honoring Out Military Heroes](#)

[History of Veterans Day](#) (Video)

[The History of Veterans Day](#)

History of Women in the Military

Women have been serving their nation for hundreds of years- serving as laundresses, cooks, and nurses during the Revolutionary War. They ensured camps were taken care of in the Civil War and a few brave women even enlisted under male names and hid their gender to serve the United States of America. In 1901 Congress established the Army Nurse Corps, and in 1908 established the Navy Nurse Corps, the first formal recognition of women serving in the military. During World War II approximately 400,000 women served in non-combat roles. In 1948 Congress passed the Women’s Armed Service Integration Act, permitting women to serve as permanent members of the military, whereas prior they were only allowed to serve during war times. Since then, there have been many achievements made by women in the military, and their ability to integrate into military culture is still growing with the Department of Defense opening all combat jobs to women in 2016.

Importance of Women in the Military

As this year marks the 100th Anniversary of the 19th amendment which allows women the right to vote, the District wanted to honor the women who have paved the way in the military and the service they provide our nation. The role of women in the military has changed greatly in the last 100 years, from primarily assisting with keeping camps feed and nursing duties, to having our first woman command a United States Army infantry division- Major General Laura L. Yeager. Women have made an impact on all aspects of the military and continue to do so today!

Starting a conversation...

Introduce Veterans Day to your students, and the importance of women in the military and recognizing the service they give to our nation.

Discuss with the students

- What does it mean to be a Veteran?
- What were the roles of women in during World War I and World War II?
- How have the roles of women changed in the military overtime?

Resources

- [Women in the Military- Digital Exhibit](#)
- *Heroism Begins with Her* by Winfred Conkling
- [History.com- How Women Fought Their Way into the U.S. Armed Forces](#)

“Women in the Military” Prompt:

Write an essay that is 2-4 pages in length around the theme “When in the Military” When writing your essay think about the following questions:

- What does it mean to be a Veteran?
- What were the roles of women in during World War I and World War II?
- How have the roles of women changed in the military overtime?
- Which notable woman in the military stands out to you and why?

How to Enter:

Submit your essay visit www.cvmddistrict.org/veteransdaycontest and upload the essay. If you have any questions regarding the contest, please call the Clovis Veterans Memorial District at (559) 299-0471.

All submissions due by October 1, 2020.

Related Common Core Standards:

7th Grade

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.7.2b

Develop the topic with relevant facts, definitions, concrete details, quotations, or other information and examples.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.7.7

Conduct short research projects to answer a question, drawing on several sources and generate additional related, focused questions for further research and investigation.

8th Grade

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.8.2

Write informative/explanatory texts to examine a topic and convey ideas, concepts, and information through the selection, organization, and analysis of relevant content.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.8.9

Draw evidence from literary or informational texts to support analysis and research.