



CLOVIS  
VETERANS  
MEMORIAL DISTRICT

## 2021 Veterans Day Essay Contest Teacher's Guide- MIDDLE/INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL

### 2021: “1776: The American Dream”

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. This year’s theme asks students to learn about the history of World War II and express why they feel it is important to remember D-Day.

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: “1776: The American Dream.”

#### **History of Veterans Day:**

Veterans Day is held on November 11<sup>th</sup>, 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 1776**

In 1776, the Declaration of Independence was adopted by the Continental Congress, when the 13 American colonies severed their connection to Great Britain. The Declaration summarized the colonist’s motivations for seeking independence. As the colonies grew, the people who lived there thought the British government treated them unfairly. The colonists how to follow the rules set by the British government but could not do anything to change them. The colonists rebelled and as a result the Revolutionary War between the colonists and Great Britain began in 1775.

#### **Declaration of Independence**

The original Declaration of Independence is held today in the National Archives Museum, alongside the Bill of Rights and Constitution. The document proclaimed that the 13 original

colonies of American were “free and independent states.” At the time of the American Revolution in 1775, most of the colonist were not seeking independence but to be heard by the British government. The ongoing war persuaded colonists that independence was the best option and on June 7<sup>th</sup> a small committee was created to write the formal declaration that we know now as the Declaration of Independence.

### **What is the American Dream?**

The American Dream is a set of ideals (democracy, rights, liberty, opportunity, equality) in which freedom includes the opportunity for prosperity and success. It is said to be rooted in the Declaration of Independence which states, “all men are created equal” with the right to “life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.”

### **“1776: The American Dream” Prompt:**

Write an essay that is 2-4 pages in length around the theme “1776: The American Dream.” When writing your essay think about the following questions:

- What events occurred in 1776?
- What is the duty of a citizen?
- What is the American Dream?
- What is the responsibility of every generation to realize the American?

### **How to Enter:**

Submit your essay with Entry Form to the Clovis Veterans Memorial District- 808 Fourth Street, Clovis, CA 93612. If you have any questions regarding the contest please call the Clovis Veterans Memorial District at (559) 299-0471.

**Related Common Core Standards:**

*7<sup>th</sup> 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.

*8<sup>th</sup> 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.