

**Office of Nikki Alvarez-Sowles, Esq.
Pasco County Clerk & Comptroller**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
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RULES FOR 2024 CLERK & COMPTROLLER CONSTITUTION ESSAY CONTEST
300 Words on 'Why the United States Constitution is Important'

Fifth graders in public and private schools in Pasco County are invited to participate in this year's competition. Home schooled students are also encouraged to participate.

Contest winners will be selected by a judging panel of professional writers and editors based solely on their entries. First-, second-, and third-place winners will be awarded a certificate and a gift card. Clerk & Comptroller Nikki Alvarez-Sowles will visit the first-prize winner at his/her school. The top three finishers will be congratulated at a meeting of the Pasco County School Board.

Contest rules and deadlines are provided below.

Essay prompt: **Why is the United States Constitution Important?**

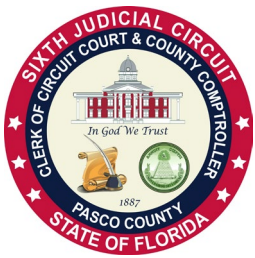
Eligibility: **All Pasco County fifth graders** may participate in the competition. Students may be enrolled in public (charters as well) or private school, including those attending virtually. Homeschoolers are welcome, too.

Deadline for Submissions: Essays must be submitted by **11:59 p.m. September 27**.

RULES:

1. **Each essay must be no longer than 300 words.** This will be strictly enforced; essays longer than 300 words shall be disqualified. (Headlines and identifying information do not count toward the 300-word limit.)

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2. Submissions will be judged on the participant's understanding of the issue, clarity, presentation, grammar, and spelling. The participant should respond to the question, "Why is the United States Constitution Important?"
3. Submissions must include the writer's name, age, grade, school, school address, contact telephone, and parent email address. (These are not counted against the 300-word limitation.)
4. One essay per student. Each essay should be entirely the student's work.
5. Each essay must be submitted to the following email address:
essaycontest@pascoclerk.com. Only MS-Word or PDF documents accepted.
6. Winners will be announced in October. Specific date to be announced.

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