11th and 12th Grade Civics Competition: Community Heroes Recognition

Objective: This competition aims to celebrate and recognize unsung heroes in the 78th Assembly District, highlighting the positive contributions of individuals who have made a difference through civic leadership, advocacy, and community service. Nominate someone important in your life who resides in the 78th Assembly District for the Community Heroes Recognition! Write a compelling essay that highlights their attributes of civic leadership, advocacy, and/or community service. Your community hero can be a teacher, mail carrier, veterinarian, your favorite librarian, or anyone else who makes a difference in our community! Explain why your nominee deserves this recognition, including a brief biography, identifying the issue your nominee addresses, discussing their inspiration for community involvement, and highlighting the positive impact they have made in your life or community. Participants and their nominees will be invited to a ceremony in recognition of the chosen community heroes!

Instructions:

1. Choose Your Nominee: Select an individual in your life who resides in the 78th Assembly District and exemplifies civic leadership, advocacy, or community service. This could be a mentor, family member, friend, neighbor, or someone else who has made a significant positive impact. You can find out if they are a member of the 78th Assembly District at https://findyourrep.legislature.ca.gov/.
2. Conduct Research: Gather information about your nominee's background, involvement in the community, and contributions to civic life. Research their achievements, projects, or initiatives that demonstrate their commitment to making a positive difference.
3. Write the Essay: Your essay should include the following sections:
    - Biography:
        - Present a concise biography of your nominee, highlighting key life events, educational background, and professional experiences.
    - Issue Identification:
        - Clearly identify the specific issue or cause your nominee addresses in their community involvement. Discuss why this issue is important and relevant.
    - Inspiration for Community Involvement:
        - Explore the factors that inspired your nominee to become involved in the community. This could include personal experiences, values, or a desire to create positive change.
    - Positive Impact:
        - Highlight the positive impact your nominee has created in your life or the community. Provide specific examples, stories, or testimonials that illustrate their influence and contributions.

- Formatting:
    - 12-point font
    - Minimum 250 words, maximum 750 words
    - Double spaced
    - Create a cover page with your name, school, and phone number.

4. Submission:

- Email your essay in PDF format to Assemblymember.Ward@Assembly.Ca.Gov between Monday, December 14, and Friday, December 18, 2026.

Recognition Ceremony:

- Participants and their nominees will be invited to a reception with Assemblymember Ward. At the event, nominees will receive official Assembly recognition for their outstanding work in the community.

Evaluation Criteria:

- Clarity and coherence of the essay.
- Depth of research and understanding of the nominee's contributions.
- Effective storytelling and narrative quality.
- Persuasive argumentation for why the nominee deserves recognition.
- Presentation of specific examples illustrating the nominee's positive impact.
- Adherence to the specified length requirements.