



**FLORIDA COMMISSION**  
*on the STATUS of WOMEN*

# *2018 Women's History Essay Contest*

*To commemorate and honor female  
members of the Florida Legislature*

Sponsored by the Florida Commission on the Status of Women, the Florida Women's History essay contest serves to celebrate women's history and to increase awareness of the contributions made by Florida women, including the female members of the Florida Legislature, past and present. Celebrating women's history presents the opportunity to honor and recount stories of our ancestors' talents, sacrifices, and commitments and inspires today's generations. Learning about our past allows us to build our future.

**Deadline for  
Submission:  
December 15, 2017**

**2018 Essay Theme:**

A legislator is a person who writes and passes laws. Legislators are public servants and are often elected by the people of the state. You have just been elected to public office. Which office would that be? What issue would you like to champion and why? Use female Florida legislators, past or present, as your inspiration.

**Florida  
students in  
grades 6  
through 8  
are eligible**

**For rules and submission  
guidelines visit [fcsw.net](http://fcsw.net)**

**107 W. Gaines Street  
Tallahassee, FL 2301  
(850) 414-3300  
[flwomenshalloffame.org](http://flwomenshalloffame.org)**



**FLORIDA COMMISSION  
on the STATUS of WOMEN**

**2017-2018 FCSW Annual Women's History Essay Contest  
Florida Students Grade 6 - 8**

Sponsored by the Florida Commission on the Status of Women, the essay contest serves to celebrate and increase awareness of the numerous contributions made by Florida women serving in public office.

Celebrating Florida women who have served and who are currently serving in public office presents the opportunity to honor and recount stories of our ancestors' talents, sacrifices, and commitments and inspires today's generations. Learning about our past allows us to build our future.

**Focus of Essay**

A legislator is a person who writes and passes laws. Legislators are public servants and are often elected by the people of the state. You have just been elected to public office. Which office would that be? What issue would you like to champion and why? Use female Florida legislators, past or present, as your inspiration.

**Rules:**

- Essays must be received by 5:00 pm on **December 15, 2017**. Winners will be announced in January 2018.
- Each contestant must be a legal resident of Florida at the time of submission. All Florida students in grades 6 through 8 (public, private and home-schooled) are eligible.
- Awards will be made in three categories: 6<sup>th</sup> grade, 7<sup>th</sup> grade, and 8<sup>th</sup> grade.
- Only an individual student may submit an essay; no groups.
- Essays must be written in paragraph format, be between 250 and 500 words, typed using 12-point font, and double-spaced, with margins set to at least one inch on all sides. Please select a legible font, such as Times New Roman or Arial.
- Essays should have a title. The title should be at the top of the first page.

- **Do not** put your name on the essay. Your name should appear on the entry form only.
- Submissions must include completed official Entry Form and Release Statement.
- Essays may be submitted via e-mail to [essay@fcsw.net](mailto:essay@fcsw.net) (use subject line: FCSW Essay Contest.) Essays submitted via e-mail must be in .doc or .pdf format and sent as an attachment. Essays received via e-mail will be confirmed by e-mail within two business days. If a receipt is not received, please call 850-414-3531.
- Essays may be mailed to: Florida Commission on the Status of Women Essay Contest, 107 West Gaines Street, Tallahassee, FL 32301.
- All entries are the property of the Florida Commission on the Status of Women. The decision of the judges and the Commission is final.

### **Awards**

Awards will be given to the first and second place winner in each of the 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup> grade categories. **First place: \$100; second place: \$75.**

All winners will be honored and asked to read their essay in a ceremony at the Florida Capitol during the 2018 Florida Legislative Education Summit at the Capitol in February 2018. Teachers will also be recognized. Winning essays will be published on the Florida Commission on the Status of Women's website during March in recognition of Women's History Month.

### **Criteria for Judging Essays**

- Theme must be clearly addressed.
- Responses should be creative and include information based on knowledge of female members of the Florida Legislature and their contributions to the state and nation.
- Content must include relevant, authentic information and ideas must be fully developed, and must demonstrate critical and creative thinking.
- Proper grammar, spelling and punctuation must be consistent with accepted usage. **Please proofread your essay prior to submitting!** Engaging a teacher or other adult for review and feedback is encouraged.



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**2017 -2018 Florida Commission on the Status of Women Essay Contest  
Entry Form and Release Statement**

<b>Student Name:</b>		
<b>Title of Entry:</b>		<b>Grade:</b>
<b>Home Mailing Address:</b>		<b>Age:</b>
<b>City:</b>	<b>State:</b> Florida	<b>Zip Code:</b>
<b>Home Phone Number:</b> <i>(including area code)</i>		
<b>Parent/Legal Guardian Name:</b>		
<b>Parent/Legal Guardian Cell Phone Number:</b> <i>(including area code)</i>	<b>Parent/Legal Guardian E-Mail Address:</b>	
<b>School Name:</b>		<b>County:</b>
<b>School Mailing Address:</b>		
<b>City:</b>	<b>State:</b> Florida	<b>Zip Code:</b>
<b>School Phone Number:</b> <i>(including area code)</i>		
<b>Teacher Name:</b>	<b>Teacher E-Mail Address:</b>	

**Release Statement:**

As parent/legal guardian, I acknowledge that my child has written the attached essay. Should he or she win the essay contest, I agree to allow the submitted essay to be distributed publicly. I also understand that if it is discovered my child plagiarized or that the thoughts expressed are not her/his own, the essay will be subject to disqualification.

I, \_\_\_\_\_  
Print Name of Parent/Legal Guardian), hereby certify the following:

1. I am the parent/legal guardian of \_\_\_\_\_
2. My child is a legal resident of Florida.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Legal Guardian Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date