



**Essay Prompt and Contest Rules  
21<sup>st</sup> Annual Slogan & Essay Contest  
Office of the Secretary of State**

1. The essay contest is open to all Kentucky high school students in grades 9-12.
2. Essay entry is limited to one per student. Previous contest entries will not be accepted.
3. Essay entry is limited to 600 words. All entries must be typed and double-spaced.
4. Essays will be judged on purpose, idea development, organization, language, and correctness (see attached rubric).
5. Students must submit their essay online at [www.sos.ky.gov/contests](http://www.sos.ky.gov/contests) or by mail with the enclosed entry form. All sections of the entry form must be completed.
6. All entries must be submitted electronically by 5 p.m. (EST) December 1, 2010 or postmarked by that day to be eligible for consideration.
7. Entries will not be returned and must be submitted in the required format to be considered.

**Essay Prompt:**

**Over the last thirty years, there has been a significant increase in the numbers of independent and “third-party” registered voters; or, in other words, voters registered outside of the two main political parties. However, candidates with these registration statuses continue to hold fewer offices across the country when compared to their percentage of the registered population. Some have suggested that this disparity exists because media coverage typically focuses on candidates from the two dominant political parties. Others go even further and suggest that media be required by law to give equal coverage to all candidates, regardless of political affiliation.**

**Discuss in your essay whether you would support such an action by Congress. Would such a law violate the First Amendment’s protection for freedom of speech and press? What would the benefits and repercussions of such a decision be?**

**Be sure to clearly explain your answers.**

Mail entries to: ATTN: Slogan and Essay Contest  
Office of the Secretary of State  
700 Capitol Avenue  
Suite 152  
Frankfort, KY 40601

You may also submit entries online at [www.sos.ky.gov/contests](http://www.sos.ky.gov/contests).

Note: Family members of employees of the Office of the Secretary of State or the State Board of Elections are not eligible to enter either contest.