

Dear High School Principal:

March, 2004

The Thirteen-Fifty Foundation, a 501 (c) 3 nonprofit organization incorporated in the state of Illinois is pleased to announce its **2004 Patriot Prize Essay Contest** for high school juniors. Dedicated to engaging America's youth in active and purposeful citizenship, the Thirteen-Fifty Foundation is sponsoring the essay contest to challenge high school juniors to ponder the meaning of one of the United States' most enduring symbols, the American flag.

In this essay contest, juniors are asked to write an essay in answer to the question, *What does the American flag mean to you?* We are looking for insightful, well thought out essays. Essays will be judged based on clarity, organization and depth of thought, spelling grammar, and originality.

We have opened this contest to high school juniors because junior year is the time students typically prepare for (or have already prepared for and taken) the U.S. Constitution Exam. We hope you and/or members of your faculty will use this essay contest as a tool to engage your students and get them to reflect on American history, particularly as it relates to the flag. We encourage you and your faculty to incorporate the contest into the existing curriculum by having each member of your school's junior class participate in the contest, perhaps assigning the essay as homework or an in-class project. Should your school opt not to participate en masse, members of your junior class may participate and enter the contest individually.

The winning essayist will be named the 2004 Patriot Prize Scholar for the State of Illinois. Only one 2004 Patriot Prize Scholar will be named in the state. Two runners up will be named. The Thirteen-Fifty Patriot Prize Scholar will receive a \$1,000 U.S. Savings Bond, an American flag which has been flown over the United States Capitol, and a plaque commemorating the prize. The second place award is a \$500 U.S. Savings Bond and the third place award is a \$100 U.S. Savings Bond. The winning essay will be published in *The Patriot Press*, the newsletter of the Thirteen-Fifty Foundation and on the foundation web site which may be accessed at www.1350foundation.org. Also, the foundation will name its list of Top 50 Stars -- the top 50 essayists in Illinois. All essays submitted become the property of the Thirteen-Fifty Foundation.

Please access at this web site the entry form. We ask that you duplicate it based on the number of students participating in the contest. Also at this site is a gray information form, which should be completed by a representative of your school and provides the necessary mailing information to you. Only one gray form needs to be completed per school and this form should accompany the essay(s) being submitted to the foundation by your school. Entries must be postmarked no later than **Friday, April 23, 2004. All submissions must be made through the mail. No e-mail submissions will be accepted.**

We invite your juniors to participate in this exciting competition and ask you to join in partnership with us as we promote a greater awareness of American history, as well as active and purposeful citizenship within our Nation's youth. Thank you. We look forward to your school's participation.

Sincerely,

Carla Knorowski, Ph.D.
Executive Director

2004 PATRIOT PRIZE ESSAY CONTEST INFORMATION FORM

Only one gray information form needs to be completed per high school. Please submit this form along with the essay(s) from your school. DO NOT submit via e-mail. Mail this form and essay(s) to:

**Thirteen-Fifty Foundation
Patriot Prize Essay Contest
C/O Near West/South Gazette*
1335 West Harrison Street
Chicago, IL 60607.**

School Name: _____

Address: _____
Number Name Boulevard/Street/Road/Avenue

City/Town/Village State Postal Code

Phone: _____ **E-mail:** _____ **Fax:** _____

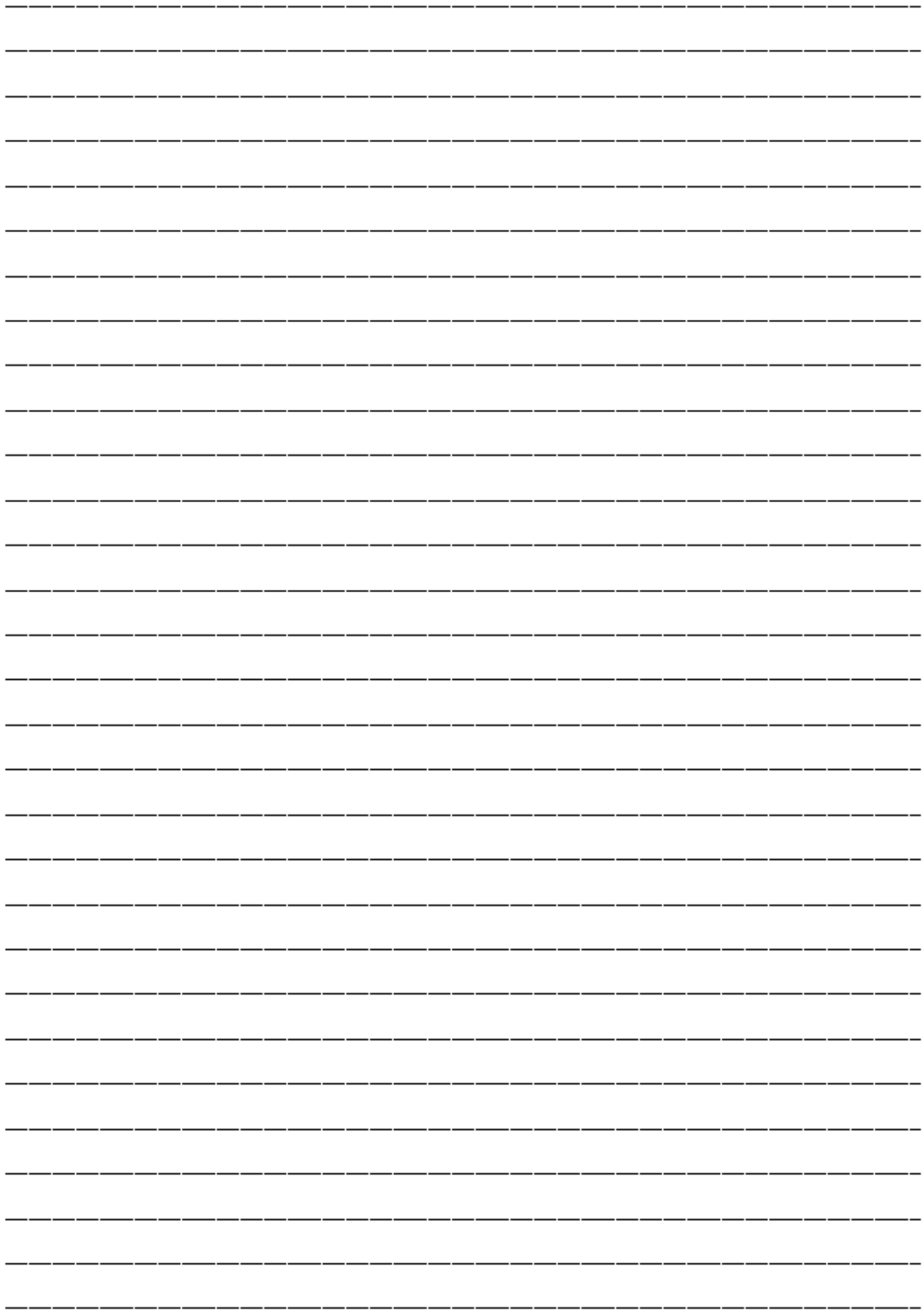
Principal's Name: _____

Faculty/Staff Member Completing This Form: _____

**PLEASE RETURN THIS FORM ALONG WITH THE ESSAYS AND MAIL THEM TO:
THIRTEEN-FIFTY FOUNDATION
PATRIOT PRIZE ESSAY CONTEST
C/O NEAR WEST/SOUTH GAZETTE*
1335 WEST HARRISON STREET
CHICAGO, IL 60607.**

SUBMISSION MUST BE POST MARKED NO LATER THAN FRIDAY, APRIL 23, 2004.

***The Near West/South Gazette is a Thirteen-Fifty Foundation "Partner in Patriotism."**



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