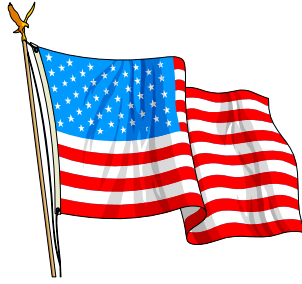


# ELK GROVE UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

## Pledge of Allegiance Essay Contest



***Open to all Elk Grove Unified 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, and 11<sup>th</sup> grade students – win a trip to Washington D.C. and the U.S. Supreme Court!***

The U.S. Supreme Court has accepted the appeal by the Elk Grove Unified School District to review the U.S. Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals' decision that found the district's practice of teacher-led recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance, including the words "under God," in violation of the establishment clause of the First Amendment to the United States Constitution.

### **Writing Prompt**

Elk Grove Unified students in the 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, and 11<sup>th</sup> grades are invited to write an essay answering the question: **Does the practice of teacher-led recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance, which includes the words "under God," violate the establishment clause of the First Amendment to the United States Constitution?**

### **Essay Guidelines**

- 500-word essay
- Typed, double-spaced; 12-point Times New Roman font
- Indicate name, grade level, and school on a cover page only (do not include your name or school on the pages of your argument).
- All entries must be turned into your social science or English teacher **no later than Friday, Jan. 23, 2004.**

### **Winner Selection**

Two winners will be identified by the selection committee – one essay on each side of the question. Two students will win a trip to the U.S. Supreme Court in Washington, D.C. in late February or March to witness the oral arguments in this historic case. Details of the trip will be confirmed with the winning students once the date for the oral arguments is set.

### **More Information**

For more information, please contact Chris Hardwicke, social science department chair at Valley High School, at [chardwicke@edcenter.egusd.k12.ca.us](mailto:chardwicke@edcenter.egusd.k12.ca.us).