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GERALD R. FORD PRESIDENTIAL FOUNDATION

GERALD R. FORD STUDENT WRITING CHALLENGE 2025

SUBMISSIONS ACCEPTED THROUGH
MARCH 14, 2025, 5 PM EDT

THE PRESIDENT GERALD R. FORD STUDENT WRITING CHALLENGE
IS NOW ACCEPTING SUBMISSIONS FROM 9-12TH GRADE STUDENTS
IN THE UNITED STATES TO COMPETE FOR CASH PRIZES.

2025 WRITING PROMPT

We are accepting 500-750 word essays that answer:

In your life, what has prepared you to follow Gerald Ford's example of answering the call to serve, especially if the call is unexpected?

On August 9, 1974, Gerald R. Ford was sworn in as the 38th President of the United States, making him the first person in American history to assume the office neither being elected to it nor the vice presidency.

In his remarks after taking the oath of office he said, "I assume the Presidency under extraordinary circumstances never before experienced by Americans. This is an hour of history that troubles our minds and hurts our hearts. ... I have not sought this enormous responsibility, but I will not shirk it. Those who nominated and confirmed me as Vice President were my friends and are my friends. They were of both parties, elected by all the people and acting under the Constitution in their name. It is only fitting then that I should pledge to them and to you that I will be the President of all the people."

Though he did not seek the Presidency, Ford recognized it as, "a duty to be done," and he answered the call to serve his country. He had his doubts, but he did not hesitate.

In your life, what has prepared you to follow Gerald Ford's example?
When your friends, family, school, or community might ask you to step up and help, especially for a duty you are reluctant to embrace, will you be prepared to answer the call to service?

CASH PRIZES FOR

**FIRST PLACE: \$2,500
PLUS A GIFT CARD FOR THE
STUDENT'S TEACHER**

**SECOND PLACE: \$1,500
PLUS A GIFT CARD FOR THE
STUDENT'S TEACHER**

**THIRD PLACE: \$1,000
PLUS A GIFT CARD FOR THE
STUDENT'S TEACHER**

**UP TO SEVEN HONORABLE
Mentions: \$500 EACH**



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**FULL RULES AND
HOW TO SUBMIT
YOUR ESSAY HERE:**

