



STUDENT ESSAY CONTEST

DEADLINE TO SUBMIT

APRIL 17, 2026

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

SUBMIT

TODAY!



2,500 words max (excluding
end notes and sources),
double spaced, word doc



aspa.ncac@gmail.com



First Place Prize: \$2,000
Second Place Prize: \$1,500
Third Place Prize: \$750



OPEN TO ALL FULL-TIME

- undergraduate students studying government, political science, public administration or public policy
- graduate students studying public administration or public policy
- at a university with classrooms (including satellite campuses) located in the Metropolitan Washington, DC area.



TOPICS

The essays should focus on one of the following topics:

- Social Equity
- Intergovernmental Relations
- The Government Workforce
- Public Engagement
- Community Collaboration
- New Technologies
- Community Resiliency
- Improving Government Outcomes



JUDGED BLIND, ORIGINAL WORK

Essays are judged in the blind. Do not include the author's name on the title page or in the body of the essay.

Essays must be original work and not previously published (online or in print) or being considered for publication elsewhere.