Native American Heritage Month

Essay Criteria for High School Students

Keokuk Association for Rights & Equality (K.A.R.E)

Eligibility:

Contest is open to students in Grades 9-12 who are enrolled in the Keokuk School District. Contest details will be published in the *Daily Gate City* newspaper and posted on the Keokuk Community School District *Chief Messenger* website.

Essay Criteria:

Step 1: Choose Your Subject

Select one (1) individual from the "Eligible Individuals List" provided below.
Use credible sources for your research and include proper citations.

Eligible Individuals List	
John Bennett Herrington, Naval Aviator & Engineer	Winona LaDuke, Writer/ Environmentalist
Mary Golda Ross, Aerospace Engineer	Charles Curtis, U.S. Vice President
Gil Birmington, Actor	

Step 2: Judging Criteria

Your report will be evaluated on:
1. Following directions (including proper citations).
2. Understanding and application of research to the **five** required elements.

Write Your Report

Your report must include the following **five (5) required elements**:
1. Writing format: Formal writing, grammar, and spelling.
2. Background: Describe the individual and provide a brief history.
3. Accomplishment: Give a detailed description of **at least one** significant achievement by this individual.
4. Impact: Explain the general importance of this accomplishment.
5. Personal Connection: Share why this accomplishment is significant to you personally.

Important:

- This report **must** be in your own words. **Do not use Artificial Intelligence** (AI) to generate content.
- Format – Must be:
- Submitted as a **PDF only**
- Typed, double-spaced, Time New Roman, 12-point font, **with citations.**

Step 3: Identification

On the upper left-hand corner of your first page, include:
- Your name and grade
- Your teacher's name
- Your school's name, and
- Date submitted

Example:
- Marlina Smith, 9th grade
- Mrs. Johnston
- Sunnyside High School
- January 1, 2026

Step 4: Submission

All reports are due by 3:00 p.m. on 11/23/2026. Reports should be emailed to keokukkaressays@gmail.com by the deadline. A confirmation email will be sent to each student submitting a report once the report has been received. Late submissions will **not be accepted**.

Awards:

Prizes will be awarded for:
- 1st Place: $50
- 2nd Place: $35
- 3rd Place: $25

Questions? Contact:

Mrs. Debra Letcher, 319/524-1583, debra.letcher@gmail.com
Mrs. Deverie Keidasch, 319/520-6724, devkiedaisch@me.com

Disclaimer:

This event/program is not affiliated with the Keokuk Community School District. If there are any inquiries, please contact the sponsors.