



National Genealogical Society

6400 Arlington Blvd., Suite 810

Falls Church, VA 22042-2318

Phone: 800-473-0060

ngsgenealogy.org

RUBINCAM YOUTH WRITING COMPETITION

Submission Requirements

Senior Rubincam Youth Writing Competition

Deadline for Submissions—15 December annually

Applicants will be notified of the decision after the NGS Board meeting in March through email.

Senior Rubincam applicants must be students in grades 9 to 12 at the time of submission.

Each applicant should submit a genealogy in a biographical narrative format for one family line; **include four generations**, beginning with you, as the first generation. You may use a biological, adoptive, or foster parent, or guardian for the second generation. Include authorization letters signed by all living persons named in the genealogy.

The submission should demonstrate understanding of various original and derivative¹ source records. It should apply critical analysis and intellectual skills in compiling the family's genealogy. Since families lived through some life-changing events, you should put their lives into historical and genealogical context. Describe the places, times, and events they witnessed.

Step No. 1: Write a biography about yourself. Include facts, incidents, and stories with appropriate genealogical information. Include supportive evidence.

Step No. 2: For the second generation, select one of your parents. Write a biography describing the person's life. Include facts as well as stories with appropriate genealogical information, life-changing events, and sources. Include supportive evidence.

¹ To understand more about original and derivative sources see the FamilySearch Wiki:

[https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Analyzing_Original_and_Family_Sources_\(National_Institute\)](https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Analyzing_Original_and_Family_Sources_(National_Institute))

Step No. 3: For the third generation, select either the mother or father of the second-generation person. Write a biography describing the parent's life. Include facts as well as stories with appropriate genealogical information, life-changing events, and sources. Include supportive evidence.

Step No. 4: For the fourth generation, select either the mother or father of the third-generation person. Write a biography describing the parent's life. Include facts as well as stories with appropriate genealogical information, life-changing events, and sources. Include supportive evidence.

Step No. 5: Prepare a four-generation pedigree (ancestor) chart beginning with yourself, to show birth, marriage, and death information for the principal individuals appearing in the biographies in steps one through four. NGS provides *free* four-generation pedigree charts at their website. You can type right into these "fillable" charts and save your work, or download a blank copy of a pedigree chart and neatly print into it. <https://www.ngsgenealogy.org/free-resources/charts/>

Biographies for individual generations should have one thousand to fifteen hundred words and up to five pages in length. Submissions should not total more than fifty pages.

Submission Style

- Typed on 8 ½" x 11" letter-quality paper
- Double-spaced
- One-inch margins on all four sides
- Title page with the following required information:
 - Manuscript's title
 - Applicant's contact information
 - Name
 - Address
 - Home phone or mobile phone
 - Email
 - School
 - Grade
 - Age
 - Submission date

Contents

- Table of contents on page two
- Four-generation pedigree (ancestor) chart on page three
- Remaining pages (both biographies and supportive evidence) are numbered consecutively, with the title page counting as the first page

Biographies

- Begin biographies on a separate page
- Written narratives should contain single-spaced footnotes. Identify the original sources (book, page number, file or jacket number, microfilm number, etc.) and repository. Example for a newspaper article: "The Trial Begun," *The Daily News-Democrat* (Belleville), 6 March 1902, p. 1, col. 4.
- Refer to the *Chicago Manual of Style* at your school, library, or online for further help in citing specific sources
- Written narratives should contain at least 1000 to 1500 words with a minimum of three pages but not more than five pages
- Supportive evidence (do not include original documents or pictures) with each biography
- The entire submission contains no more than fifty pages

The NGS website has many free resources to learn more about genealogy. Visit ngsgenealogy.org > Learning Center > Free Resources and also the sections on Getting Started, Going to the Next Level, and Building Advanced Skills.

Send your completed submission materials by 15 December:

Email—awards@ngsgenealogy.org

Regular Mail

NGS Rubincam Youth Writing Competition

National Genealogical Society

6400 Arlington Blvd., Suite 810

Falls Church, Virginia 22042-2318 USA

UPS or FedEx

NGS Rubincam Youth Writing Competition

National Genealogical Society

6400 Arlington Blvd., Suite 660

Falls Church, Virginia 22042-2318 USA

(Consider getting a tracking number to track your package and assure arrival.)

Questions? Contact the NGS Awards Chair at awards@ngsgenealogy.org