



# 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 derivative<sup>1</sup> 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.

---

<sup>1</sup> 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 using a word processor
- 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](http://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:**

Use the online form to submit your entry.

**Questions?** Contact the NGS Awards Chair at [awards@ngsgenealogy.org](mailto:awards@ngsgenealogy.org)