



**Big Ideas for a Changing World**  
**Essay Competition 2016 -- Rhode Island Grade 10**  
**Newport Historical Society**  
**Deadline Extended**

The Newport Historical Society Essay Competition is open to Rhode Island students enrolled in tenth grade in public and other tuition-free schools.

**Rhode Island has been a place of many firsts – innovation is in our blood! We were the first place in the modern world to incorporate the revolutionary principle of religious freedom in our governing documents. That idea and the related concept of separation of church and state have gone on to sweep the world. Today, these principles are included in the U.S. Constitution, the Bill of Rights and the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Just a little more than 100 years later, Rhode Islanders changed the world again – this time by starting the Industrial Revolution in America. What we will do next?**

This competition is for students in the 10<sup>th</sup> grade (2016-2017 academic year), with or without full class participation; students may enter individually or through their class. Each is asked to respond to the prompt below:

***What is happening now in your community, or what could be happening, that has the power to change the future in Rhode Island and potentially the world?***

Two student winners from each Rhode Island county will be selected. Teachers who sponsor this competition in their classes and have an award-winning student essay will also be invited to join us. Competition winners will receive:

Saturday matinee tickets to the award-winning and genre-busting Broadway show, ***Hamilton, An American Musical***, including a post-show dinner, and transportation to and from New York City for each winner. This event will be chaperoned by teachers of winning students and by NHS staff.

The committee will judge papers according to the following criteria:

- 1) A great idea!
- 2) Elaboration on the idea with specific, concrete, and/or personal example(s) of why this idea or activity has the capacity to shape and influence the future.
- 3) Evidence of critical-thinking, such as synthesis and evaluation, when reflecting on the essay question, and a connection to the State's history with appropriate documentary evidence, if appropriate.
- 4) Organization and fluency.

## **Submission Guidelines**

Length: Submissions for the Newport Historical Society Essay Competition should be approximately 1,200 words.

Formatting: Number all pages except for the title page. All pages are to be double-spaced. Use 12 pt. Times New Roman Font. Margins are to be 1" left and right, and top and bottom.

Submissions must be composed in Microsoft Word.

The author's identity is to appear nowhere on the paper. A separate, unattached page should accompany the paper, identifying the author, title of paper, home address, telephone number, email address, name of school and whether the essay was produced as part of a class project. Submissions must be signed by a teacher, parent or legal guardian attesting to the originality of the student's work. A form for this information is available for download on the website of the Newport Historical Society [www.newporthistory.org](http://www.newporthistory.org).

## **Selection Committee**

The selection committee will consist of five individuals:

- one NHS staff member
- one NHS board member
- RI Governor or RI Department of Education nominee
- Two (2) NHS Executive Director nominees who reflect the statewide reach of this competition and its purpose

## **Deadline**

Entries must be emailed or postmarked by January 1, 2017.

Winning papers will be announced by March 1, 2017. The prize trip will take place around school vacations in April, 2017.

The Newport Historical Society reserves the right to publish (including on the web) any essay (or portion thereof) submitted to the competition. It will do so solely at its discretion, but full acknowledgment of authorship will be given.

## **To submit your materials by email:**

Send the materials as attachments in the same email (formatted in MS Word), with the subject line "Newport Historical Society Essay Competition" to [ipeters@newporthistorical.org](mailto:ipeters@newporthistorical.org).

## **To submit your material by mail:**

Send the materials to the address below.

Newport Historical Society Essay Competition  
Newport Historical Society  
82 Touro Street  
Newport, RI 02840