

2019 Women's History Month Essay Contest

As women who are passionate about teaching young people today about equality and the history of women in the work place, we are delighted to once again sponsor the *Women's History Month Essay Contest* highlighting contributions made by extraordinary women over past decades that have paved the way providing opportunities for women today to advance in society and the workplace.

We invite essay contest participants to take advantage of this opportunity to examine the following essay topic:

Topic: *This year's topic explores the life of **Ruth Bader Ginsburg**, (born Joan Ruth Bader on March 15, 1933) is an Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States. Ginsburg was appointed by President Bill Clinton and took the oath of office on August 10, 1993. She is the second female justice (after Sandra Day O'Connor) of four to be confirmed to the court (along with Sonia Sotomayor and Elena Kagan, who are still serving). Following O'Connor's retirement, and until Sotomayor joined the court, Ginsburg was the only female justice on the Supreme Court. During that time, Ginsburg became more forceful with her dissents, which were noted by legal observers and in popular culture. She is generally viewed as belonging to the liberal wing of the court. Ginsburg has authored notable majority opinions, including *United States v. Virginia*, *Olmstead v. L.C.*, and *Friends of the Earth, Inc. v. Laidlaw Environmental Services, Inc.**

Please examine the status of Ms. Ginsburg in her earlier years? What drove her to succeed to where she is today and how has society portrayed her? Is the society aware of all her accomplishments? How do you feel she has paved the way for young women today?

Length: 500-750 words

Eligibility: South Plainfield residents in grades 9-12

Deadline: April 26, 2019

Prize: ***First Prize:** \$250.00 Gift Card, **Second Prize:** \$150.00 Gift Card and **Third Prize:** \$100.00 Gift Card. The winners will be announced at the Mayor & Council Meeting in June and also recognized in the local newspaper. The winners will be chosen by the Women's Leadership Committee (Debbie Boyle, Nina Rohrer, April Bengivenga, Shannon Jefferys, Pat DeSantis, Pamela Stefanek & Stephanie Bartfalvi) and the Suburban Women's Club of South Plainfield.*

Submit to: Nina Rohrer
106 Puha Road
South Plainfield, NJ 07080
Email: linarohrer@aol.com

Please include name, address, grade, phone number, and email address on your essay.

Women's History Month is celebrated every March in the United States and is a month-long celebration of women's contribution to culture, history and society. The National Women's History Month honors women who successfully challenged their role in both business and the paid labor force. Women have always worked, but often their work has been undervalued and unpaid. Facing stark inequalities in the workplace (lower wages, poor working conditions and limited opportunities), women has fought for decades to make the workplace a less hostile environment, equal opportunities and equal wages. Please join us in celebrating women's history and advancement in the United States of America.

Famous Firsts in Women's History:

- On Aug. 26, 1920, the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, guaranteeing American women the right to vote, was declared in effect.
- In 1943, The All-American Girls Professional Baseball League becomes the first professional baseball league for female players.
- In 1977, Janet Guthrie is the first woman to drive in the Indy 500 car race.
- On July 7, 1981, President Reagan nominated Arizona Judge Sandra Day O'Connor to become the first female justice on the United States Supreme Court.
- In January 1997, Madeleine Albright becomes the first female Secretary of State.
- On March 7, 2010, Kathryn Bigelow becomes the first woman to win an Oscar for Best Director
- On July 26, 2016, Hillary Clinton becomes first female presidential nominee of a major party