



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Contact: Leslie Bari  
215.525.1776  
610.639.4880 (direct)  
leslie@theconstitutional.com

**THE CONSTITUTIONAL WALKING TOUR ANNOUNCES STUDENT WINNERS OF 15th ANNUAL AMERICAN FREEDOM ESSAY CONTEST IN HONOR OF CONSTITUTION DAY & CITIZENSHIP DAY**

***Winning Students Receive Free Field Trip of Historic Philadelphia***

**Philadelphia, Pennsylvania** – February 1, 2022 – The Constitutional Walking Tour of Philadelphia today announced the student winners of its 2021 American Freedom Essay Contest.

The winner in the **Elementary School Category** (Grades 1-5) was Pavana Attonito from Hindley Elementary School in Darien, CT (Fairfield County) for the essay “Freedom of Speech: the Right to Read!” (Teacher: Katy Gale).

The winner in the **Middle School Category** (Grades 6-8) was Clarissa Feichtel from Eagle View Middle School in Mechanicsburg, PA (Cumberland County) for the essay “Freedom of Speech” (Teacher: Kim Dolbin).

The winner in the **High School Category** (Grades 9-12) was Daniel Kowalski from Weymouth High School in Weymouth, MA (Norfolk County) for the essay “The Freedom to Speak” (Teacher: Nathan Rand).

Over the 15 years that the American Freedom Essay Contest has been offered, we have received thousands of wonderful essays from students attending public and private schools, as well as those being home schooled, across the entire United States. In total, there were hundreds of essays received from more than 10 states with the majority coming from Connecticut, Massachusetts, New Jersey, New York and Pennsylvania. The winning essays are posted online at [www.theconstitutional.com/essay](http://www.theconstitutional.com/essay) .

“We were overwhelmed with the response to our 15<sup>th</sup> annual American Freedom Essay Contest,” stated Jonathan Bari, President of The Constitutional Walking Tour. “We salute all of the students and educators who participated in the contest on a job well done with the high caliber of essays that we received.”

Essay topics represented a broad spectrum of ideas and different points of view on various subjects including freedom of speech, freedom of assembly, freedom of religion, freedom of the press, the right to petition the government, the right to bear arms, the right to pursue one’s happiness, etc.

The winning students receive a free field trip and walking tour for their class. This year, they have the choice of an in-person tour with The Constitutional Walking Tour, or a Live Virtual Field Trip. The Constitutional Walking Tour's Virtual Field Trip is a great way to experience Historic Philadelphia during Covid for schools that cannot travel or visit Philadelphia in person.

### **American Freedom Essay Contest**

September 17th is designated as Constitution Day because on that date in 1787, the delegates of the Constitutional Convention in Philadelphia signed the United States Constitution at Independence Hall. For the eighth year, in honor of Constitution Day, The Constitutional Walking Tour asked students to give their views about American freedom. The American Freedom Essay Contest challenged educators to get their students to write a 100-300 word essay on the importance of freedom in their lives. Entries were judged in Elementary School, Middle School and High School categories with the winner in each category earning a free field trip of Historic Philadelphia with The Constitutional Walking Tour for his/her class. For more details on The Constitutional’s field trips, visit [www.TheConstitutional.com/schools](http://www.TheConstitutional.com/schools).

To sign up to receive an email when the details of the 2022 American Freedom Essay Contest is announced, visit [www.TheConstitutional.com/schools](http://www.TheConstitutional.com/schools) and sign up for The Constitutional Walking Tour’s Educator mailing list.

### **The Constitutional’s Educator Resources**

The Constitutional Walking Tour offers a variety of resources to help Educational Institutions and Federal Agencies fulfill the annual requirement for Constitution Day programming, including The Constitutional Guided Walking Tour. For details on all of The Constitutional's educational resources, please visit [www.TheConstitutional.com/1787](http://www.TheConstitutional.com/1787) .

### **About The Constitutional Walking Tour of Philadelphia**

The Constitutional Walking Tour of Philadelphia is one of the leading providers of Philadelphia sightseeing tours. Located in Historic Philadelphia, The Constitutional visits more than 20 of the most historical sites on a 75 minute, 1.25 mile outdoor adventure in the Independence National Historical Park area, which is home to the Liberty Bell, Independence Hall and the National Constitution Center. The Constitutional is also the producer of the Spirits of '76 Ghost Tour of Philadelphia which features more than 20 of "Philly's Frights & Sights"™ on a 75 minute, 1.25 mile outdoor walking tour through Historic Philadelphia that features haunted facts and folklore. For more information, please see [www.Spiritsof76.com](http://www.Spiritsof76.com) .

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