



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 are notified of the decision by 1 April annually 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))

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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

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

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