

AIR FORCE ASSOCIATION - TEXAS
EARLE NORTH PARKER ESSAY CONTEST
School Year 2017 – 2018 Entry Form

Name of Participant: _____
(Please print - First - Middle - Last)

Address: _____
(Please print – Street, City, State, Zip Code)

Home Telephone: (_____) _____ School: _____

Parent / Guardian Name(s): _____

E-Mail Contact for Student: _____

ESSAY TOPIC - Define and support your position on the following topic:

**Noncommissioned pilots: Historically, who did, and now who
does/could pilot Air Force aircraft?**

(See attached sheet with additional information and data on the topic.)

CONTEST RULES:

- Participants must be a senior in a State of Texas High School (including home-schooled).
- Essays must pertain to the Essay Topic shown above; ensure you read and use attached info.
- Font size will be 12 pitch and margins will be 1 inch on all sides. Exceeding the limits will penalize or disqualify the entry.
- Reference material will not be included in the essay.
- Essays must be typed, double-spaced, on 8 ½ x 11 inch white paper.
- Participant's name will be typed in the upper right corner of each page of the essay, submitted as part of the contest entry. Pages must be numbered sequentially, at the bottom of each page.
- Essay topic must be typed, centered at the top of page one of the essay, two spaces above the first line of the first paragraph. *Any other heading will disqualify the entry.*
- All information required on this form (above) and signature below must be provided.
- Grammar and proper punctuation are also expected and scored.
- **Contest entry form and the essay must be postmarked by 15 Dec 2017.**

Please return entry form and essay in hard copy and electronic media:

E-MAIL ENTRY FORM Entry and/or DISK TO:

Chapter 416
PO Box 8633
Greenville, TX 75404-8633
Attn: Vance Clarke

Prizes: 1st Place - \$2000 Plus+
2nd Place - \$1000 Plus+

All participants must sign below:

The participant above named, hereby grants permission to the Air Force Association - Texas to publish in any publication of its choice, any essay and related materials or information that he or she may submit as an entry in the AFA - Texas, Earle North Parker Essay Contest.

Date: _____ Signature of Participant: _____

Noncommissioned pilots: Historically, who did, and now who does/could pilot Air Force aircraft?

The Air Force announced the establishment of pilot-rated noncommissioned officers to try to fill severe pilot shortages specifically targeting remotely piloted aircraft (RPA) missions. These increased needs are largely in support of coalition forces in the Middle East, Africa, and elsewhere around the globe. This represents a reversal of a policy that has existed longer than the Air Force; that all pilot-rated personnel must be commissioned officers.

What has previous policy been on who can fly; actually in the cockpit, or now, remotely?

How has history and development of the Air Force been influenced by who flies our aircraft?

Have enlisted and others who have not been commissioned officers flown before?

Have these past aviators influenced the Air Force culture?

What do you see in the history of enlisted aviators and what impact do you think this new policy will have on our force?

The challenge of this topic is for you to research available information, decide what you think, and write a two page essay on what you think and why.

Things to consider:

In answering the theme question, remember that there are no right or wrong answers. Your challenge is to research your facts, pick and define the position you will discuss, and frame your response within the two-page limit, while supporting why you feel this position is important to national security.

There are numerous sources of information; news broadcasts, talk shows, newspapers and magazines, and of course, the internet is filled with references; find them and turn them into an opinion. The Air Force Association website at www.AFA.org has a wide range of information as does the Air Force website, www.af.mil, and many more than we can possibly mention. We know you are bright, talented, and able! We look forward to your response.

Good luck and thanks for your interest!