

2017-2018 United States Senate Youth Scholarship Essay Prompt for North Carolina Candidates

The Boston University [course overview](#) for *The Modern U.S. Senate*, a course designed to study the United States Senate from 1945 to present, states that historically, senators have been able to work collaboratively to live up to the Founding Fathers' vision of having an "upper house" of Congress that would balance and check the "passions" of the popularly elected "lower house". With the U.S. Senate in mind, each student applying for the USSYP scholarship in North Carolina is asked to read and reflect upon James Madison's Federalist 62 from the 1787 Federalist Papers, as it appears in a [publication by the Senate Historical Office entitled, *The Idea of the Senate*](#). After reading the publication, research and prepare an essay addressing the following question:

Essay Question Prompt:

What is the role of the U.S. Senate and has this "upper house" of the Congress evolved in a manner that lives up to the Founding Fathers' expectations that the Senate be productive in its roles and functions as a part of the legislative branch of United States' government? Identify the responsibilities of the U.S. Senate and how those responsibilities distinguish the "upper house" from the "lower house". Make certain to use information, data, and examples to characterize the unique powers and features of the U.S. Senate and how those powers and features have been exercised and have evolved since the 1960s. Provide at least two examples of how the U.S. Senate has been instrumental in passing major legislation by citing one example prior to 1980 and one example after 1980. Identify specific differences between the U.S. Senate of the 1960 to 2000 time period and the U.S. Senate of today. Be sure to include mention of specific senators who have in any way influenced the U.S. Senate and any legislation of the Senate, since 1960. Were there any from North Carolina? Finally, make sure to draw a logical conclusion with clear and coherent examples or reasons explaining your position of whether the U.S. Senate has lived up to the Founding Fathers' expectations of a collaborative and productive "upper house" of Congress as it has evolved over the last 30 years.

Instructions:

Write a well-developed essay that addresses this year's essay prompt.

Your essay **MUST**:

1. Be typed.
2. Be double spaced.
3. Have your name typed at the top of both pages.
4. Not exceed two pages. *A cover page and works cited page are not required. However, if you choose to provide them they will not be a part of the page count.*
5. Provide support/evidence that offers historical, contemporary, and current examples when explaining your chosen evidence.
6. Cite your sources and documents used with American Psychological Association (APA) citations.

****Source for background reading of Federalist 62:**

The Necessity of the Senate in the Federal Government. (n.d.). Retrieved June 6, 2017, from https://www.senate.gov/artandhistory/history/idea_of_the_senate/1787Federalist62.htm

FORM B

Your essay will be judged based on the following:

A COHERENT AND LOGICAL INTRODUCTION

- Essay has a historical and practical background on the topic or issue addressed by the question.
- Essay has supporting ideas and facts. (No representation of personal or political opinions of the essay writer)
- There is a thesis statement that speaks to the question asked.
- The thesis statement is clear and logically expressed.

ESSAY DETAILS AND SUPPORT

- The main points of the prompt are addressed in the essay
 - How well the essay addresses the what has been asked for in the essay prompt
 - How well arguments or information is presented for the points being addressed
 - Supporting evidence provided for any arguments or information presented
 - How well the essay is detailed in the information and supporting evidence provided to support the thesis statement
 - Examples used to highlight support are appropriate and make logical connection to whatever they are being used to illustrate
- The essay uses evidence that offers historical, contemporary, and current examples/descriptions.
- Personal conclusions are supported with data and information to back up the essay writer's point of view or perspective
- ALL the elements or components of the essay prompt are addressed with information, examples, data, etc.

ORGANIZATION

- The essay is written with a clear flow that is easy to read and comprehend.
 - Sentence flow
 - Transitions
 - Appropriate choice of words and how they are used
- Information is organized and structured in a logical manner.
- There is a clearly defined introduction.
- There is a clearly defined conclusion.

*Helpful notes of caution to the candidates:

- Stay away from flowery writing and descriptions full of imagery.
- Focus on writing a well detailed paper based on research and facts to support your views.
- You are writing an **expository essay** which presents a balanced analysis of a topic.

ACCURACY OF INFORMATION

- Information is correct and researched information; not based on opinion.
- Information is not value-laden.

A STRONG CONCLUSION

- The concluding thoughts make a clear connection back to the question or thesis based on the support and evidence of presented in the essay.

MECHANICS

- Spelling is correct.
- Punctuation is correct.
- Capitalization is appropriate.
- Formatting of paragraphs is appropriate.

FORM B