

S/SGT James M. Ray SCHOLARSHIP
AWARDS APPLICATION
ESSAY TOPICS

Please write an essay in response to **one** of the subjects below. The essay must be at least 250 words. Please list any and all references used. Notes from interviews encouraged.

Patriotism is a subject many of our citizens see in quite different ways. Most of the differences seem to be age and life experience related.

Identify and discuss the perspectives and ways our citizens today see what Patriotism stands for, paying particular attention to the views of our youth of today versus their grandparents views. (actual interviews encouraged)

National Holidays are and were created to allow people a chance to get away from their employment obligations and have time to reflect or take part in activities for specific reasons. Veterans Day, Memorial Day, and the Fourth of July are examples of days laid aside for specific reasons.

Identify and discuss how each of these holidays came to be set aside. Explain the different reasons and intent for each of these days. (in this case interviews with Veterans encouraged)

National service is/has been a subject of controversy for many years. During the war years the draft led to the forced service of our young men to defend freedom through-out the world. Many today see the draft negatively due to their personal opinion about the reasons or where our soldiers are assigned. Less than one percent of our population is currently volunteering to serve our country in the military.

Identify and discuss what National service is or what in your opinion it should be. Explain why it should be important that all of our citizens accept a cost to keep this country free. The current Selective Service only registers males between 18-26 years of age. Defend or explain a position that a National service obligation should not apply to all genders.

(a panel discussion with others of your own age encouraged)