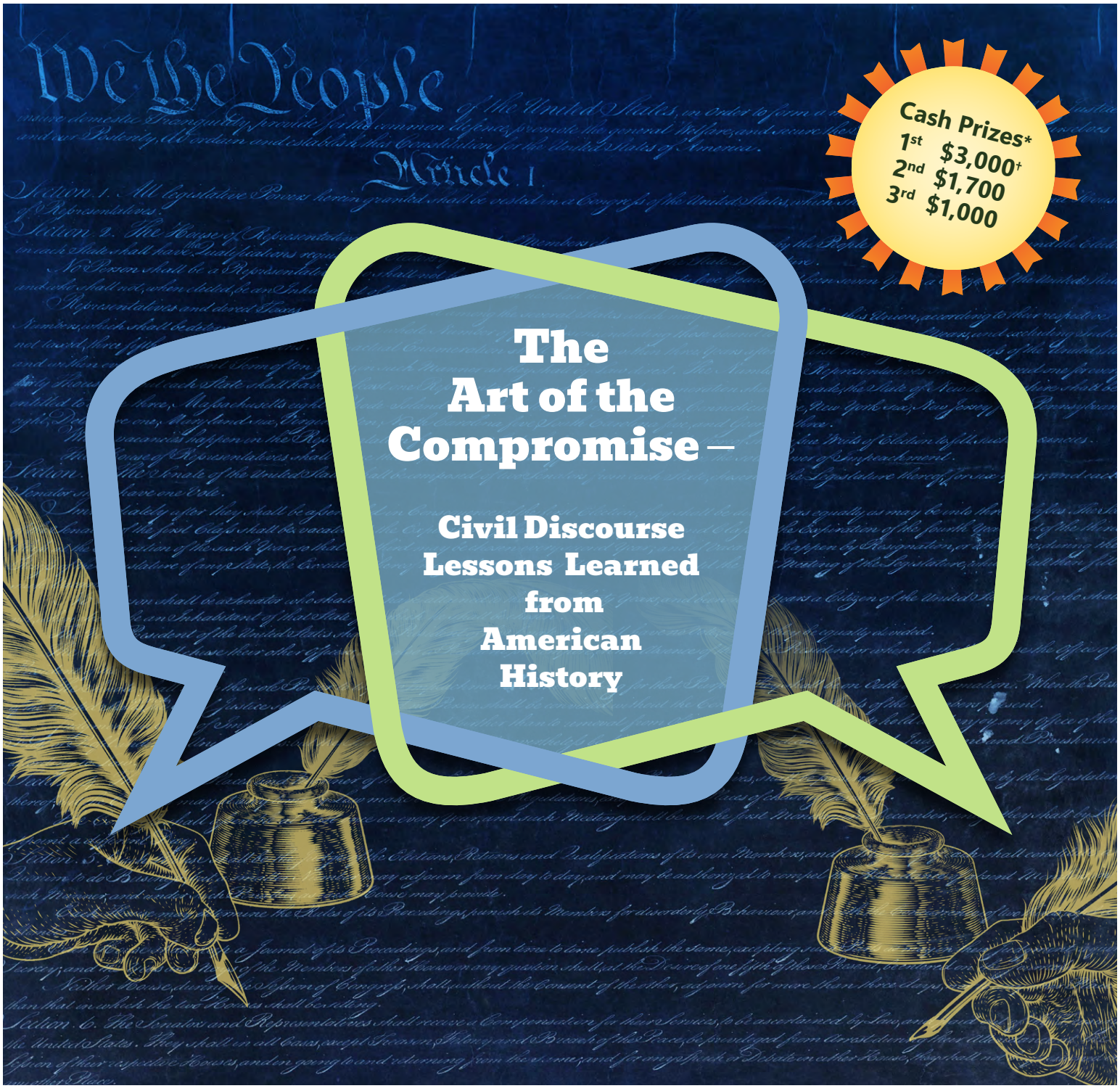
2027 NINTH CIRCUIT CIVICS CONTEST



An essay and video contest open to high school students within the Ninth Circuit (covering nine western States, plus Guam and the Northern Mariana Islands). Contest rules and entry instructions are available on the contest website: **https://www.ca9.uscourts.gov/civicscontest**.

Entries accepted beginning **Jan. 6, 2027**. Deadline for entries is **March 5, 2027**. Sponsored by the United States Courts for the Ninth Circuit.

† Plus! Travel and accommodations to attend part of the 2027 Ninth Circuit Judicial Conference.
* May be subject to federal, state or local taxes unless exemptions apply.

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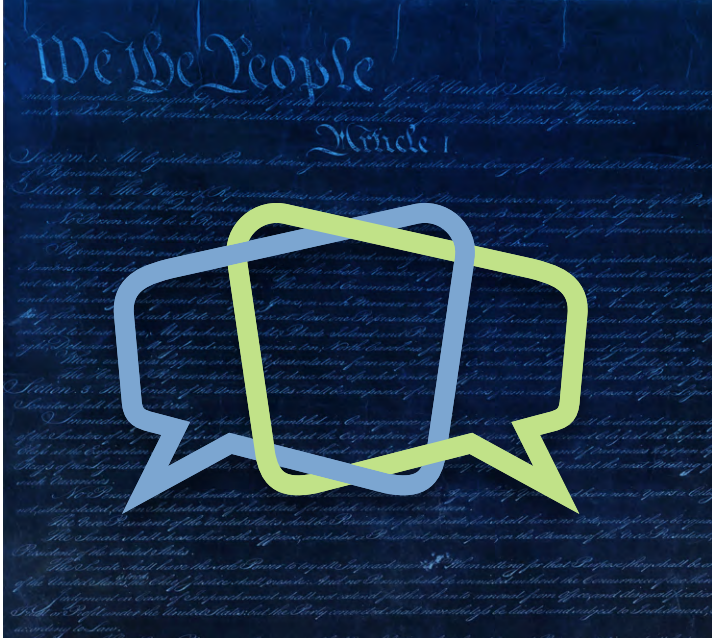
The Art of the Compromise —

Civil Discourse Lessons Learned from American History



Throughout American history, citizens have disagreed over fundamental questions of constitutional principles, individual rights and public policy. Examples include the debate over ratifying the Constitution, slavery and states' rights before the Civil War, women's suffrage, civil rights, immigration and freedom of speech.

Choose one historical disagreement on fundamental constitutional principles, and explain how people on different sides expressed their views and compromised. From your example, discuss what today's citizens can learn about their responsibility to engage in productive civil debate and seek principled compromise when addressing important public issues.

Each contest participant must be studying within the Ninth Circuit and a student in grade 9-12 of a public, private, parochial or charter school (or a homeschooled student of equivalent grade status). Eligible students may submit their essay and video entries on the contest website starting Jan. 6, 2027. Deadline to submit entries is 11:59 p.m. Pacific Time, **March 5, 2027**.

The contest is organized by the Ninth Circuit Public Information and Community Outreach ("PICO") Committee. For more information, contact the Ninth Circuit Office of the Circuit Executive at **civicscontest@ce9.uscourts.gov**.

The U.S. District Court and the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Eastern District of California will conduct a local contest to select finalists for the circuit-wide competition. Local contest winners in each category will receive prizes of $1,500 for 1st place, $750 for 2nd place and $500 for 3rd place. To be eligible to compete in the local contest, students must reside in one of these counties: Alpine, Amador, Butte, Calaveras, Colusa, El Dorado, Fresno, Glenn, Inyo, Kern, Kings, Lassen, Madera, Mariposa, Merced, Modoc, Mono, Nevada, Placer, Plumas, Sacramento, San Joaquin, Shasta, Sierra, Siskiyou, Solano, Stanislaus, Sutter, Tehama, Trinity, Tulare, Tuolumne, Yolo or Yuba. For more information about the district contest, please contact: **Cathy Waltz – (916) 930-4495 / Cathy_Waltz@caeb.uscourts.gov**.

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