



# LANCASTER LAW FOUNDATION

## Law Day Poster Contest Guidelines

### Contest Theme: “The Rule of Law and the American Dream”

Participants should create posters that reflect their understanding of “*The Rule of Law and the American Dream*”. Posters should be imaginative, illustrating how laws and fairness help people pursue their goals, protect their rights, and create opportunities. Each poster should convey a clear message that connects the theme to students’ own ideas about justice and possibility.

### Eligibility:

- Open to all students in **Grades 1-5** in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania.
- Students may participate through their school or as individuals.
- Only one entry per student is allowed.

### Poster Size and Format:

- Posters must be created on standard-sized poster paper or cardstock.
- **Size Requirements:** Minimum size of 8.5” x 11” and maximum size of 18” x 24”.
- Posters must be in landscape or portrait orientation.
- Entries must be flat; no 3D elements or attachments are allowed.

### Materials Allowed:

- Students may use any of the following materials:
  - **Markers, crayons, colored pencils, pastels, watercolor paints, acrylic paints, or mixed media.**
  - **Collage elements** (e.g., magazine cutouts, fabric) are allowed, but the poster must remain flat.

- **Digital art** is permitted, but entries must be printed and submitted in the required size.
- **Prohibited Materials:**
  - No use of glitter, sand, or any other material that may flake off.
  - No copyrighted characters or logos should be included in the design.

#### **Content Requirements:**

- All artwork must be **original** and created by the student.
- Posters must clearly reflect the contest theme: "The Constitution's Promise: Out of Many, One."
- Posters should not contain any offensive or inappropriate content.
- The student's name, grade, and school should be written on the **BACK** of the poster.

#### **Submission Guidelines:**

- **Submission Deadline:** All entries must be submitted by **April 15, 2026**.
- **How to Submit:**
  - If participating through a school, submit your entry to the designated teacher or school representative.
  - If participating as an individual, deliver or mail your entry to:  
**Lancaster Law Foundation**  
**ATTN: Law Day Poster Contest**  
**28 East Orange Street**  
**Lancaster, PA 17602**
- All entries must include a completed **Entry Form** and **Parent/Guardian Consent Form** attached to the back of the poster.

#### **Judging Criteria:**

Entries will be judged on the following criteria:

1. **Creativity and Originality** (40%)
2. **Relevance to the Theme** (30%)
3. **Clarity of Message** (20%)

#### 4. **Overall Presentation** (10%)

A panel of local artists, lawyers, and community leaders will judge the entries.

##### **Prizes and Recognition:**

- Prizes will be awarded to the **top 2 winners (and their teachers)** in each grade category (Grades 1-2, Grades 3-4, and Grade 5).
- Winning posters will be displayed at the Lancaster Law Foundation/Lancaster Bar Foundation offices and featured on the Lancaster Law Foundation's website and social media platforms.
- Press releases will be sent to local media.
- All participants will receive a certificate of participation.

##### **Additional Rules:**

- The Lancaster Law Foundation reserves the right to disqualify any entry that does not adhere to these guidelines.
- By entering the contest, participants and their parents/guardians grant permission for the Lancaster Bar Association/Lancaster Law Foundation to use the artwork, name, and photo of the participants for promotional and educational purposes.
- All entries become the property of the Lancaster Law Foundation and will not be returned.

##### **Contact Information:**

For any questions or further information, please contact:

##### **Lancaster Law Foundation**

Penny Smith, Director of Development

penny@lancasterbar.org

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Encourage students to think critically, express creatively, and have fun participating in the Law Day Poster Contest! We look forward to seeing their artistic interpretations of justice.



## Educator's Guide: Law Day Poster Contest

### Contest Theme: "The Rule of Law and the American Dream"

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#### Exploring the Theme

The Rule of Law is the foundation that allows the American Dream to exist. It means that everyone - no matter who they are or where they come from - is treated equally under the law. Laws protect our rights, create fairness, and make it possible for people to pursue their goals and dreams.

Help students explore how the rule of law connects to the idea that everyone should have a fair chance to succeed. Encourage them to think about what "justice," "fairness," and "opportunity" look like in their own lives. Here are some visual concepts to inspire their posters:

- **Scales of Justice and a Ladder:** The scales represent fairness, and the ladder symbolizes opportunity. Together, they show that fairness helps people climb toward their dreams.
  - **Open Door:** A door marked "Opportunity" that's open to everyone, showing that laws help ensure fairness and access for all.
  - **Bridge of Law:** A bridge labeled "Rule of Law" connecting two sides — one marked "Dreams" and the other "Reality."
  - **Hands Holding the Constitution:** Symbolizing how laws protect the dreams and rights of all people.
  - **City Skyline or Neighborhood Scene:** Showing people of all backgrounds studying, working, and helping one another — all made possible because the law provides order and fairness.
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## What is Law Day?

Law Day, held annually on May 1, is a national day set aside to celebrate the rule of law. Law Day provides an opportunity to understand how law and the legal process protect our liberty, strive to achieve justice, and contribute to the freedoms and opportunities all Americans share.

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## Activity Ideas for Teachers

- **Class Discussion:** Ask students what rules make it possible for them to learn at school, play safely, or be treated fairly. How do rules help them reach their goals?
  - **Dream Posters:** Have students share one dream they have for the future. Examine how laws can enhance their prospects of turning that dream into reality.
  - **Role Models:** Share stories of people who achieved their dreams because laws protected their rights (e.g., famous leaders, inventors, or community helpers).
  - **Guest Speaker:** Invite a local attorney, judge, or law enforcement officer to speak about how the rule of law protects fairness and opportunity. ***Need a speaker? Contact us and we'll help you find one!***
  - **Classroom Constitution:** As a class, write a short “Constitution” of rules everyone agrees to follow. Explain how rules enable everyone to learn and grow.
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## Resources for Teachers

For lesson plans and more information, visit:

- ABA Teacher Portal: [abateacherportal.org](http://abateacherportal.org)
- Law Day Resources: [americanbar.org/lawday](http://americanbar.org/lawday)