



**V.F.W. Post 9143  
and  
Ladies Auxiliary**

**1045 Dahlonga Highway  
Cumming, Georgia 30040**



**Patriot's Pen Essay Contest  
2012 - 2013**

**“What I Would Tell America’s Founding Fathers.”**

**Madison Anne McNeill**

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**NAME**

**Dawson County Middle School**

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**SCHOOL / ORGANIZATION**



**1st Place Winner**

# What I Would Tell America's Founding Fathers

If I was able to talk with the Founding Fathers, there would be many issues to discuss. Firstly, what are their views on slavery? Luckily, slavery has long been abolished, but how would the Founding Fathers feel about this? Would they have chosen to free them? The 1<sup>st</sup> Amendment protects peoples' rights to religion, freedom of speech, and freedom to petition the government. Was this meant to apply to women and African Americans? I feel these things would be important to discuss. Next, the 2<sup>nd</sup> Amendment is controversial. Seeing us today, would they be happy with our gun ownership regulations? I think I can speak for most people in my state when I say we enjoy our guns, but would the Founding Fathers say differently? Another amendment that raises some questions is the 4<sup>th</sup>; this rule stated the government couldn't take property, papers, or people without probable cause. Would they think our government has upheld this all-important rule? Would they like to add or remove any details? Another issue is the 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, and 7<sup>th</sup> Amendments, which all relate to the Judicial Branch. These amendments basically consist of rights, like you may not be tried for the same crime twice, you can't be forced to testify against yourself, you must be allowed an attorney, and fair punishments are needed. Were any of them ever victims of an unjust trial? Do they see any problems that have arisen in the system that need correcting? The 9<sup>th</sup> Amendment simply states other rights aside from those listed exist, and just because they are not listed doesn't mean they can be violated. Would they feel some people take advantage of this, or is it the opposite? The 13<sup>th</sup> Amendment was subject of a ton of controversy. This amendment abolished slavery. If they were alive during these times, how would they feel? How about now, seeing how African Americans have helped society prosper? The world has very much changed, and what the Founding Fathers would have said will never really be known. However, I feel that they would be happy seeing the amazing growth and impact a small handful of colonies they wanted to free so long ago have made.