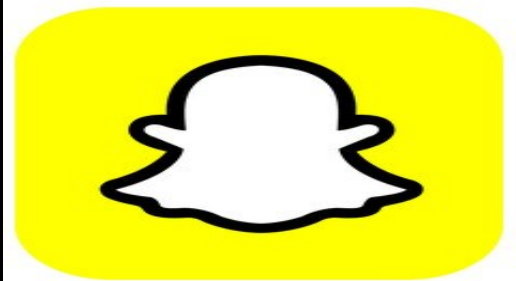


RICHARD I.  
**BONG**  
VETERANS HISTORICAL CENTER

**2023-2024**

## **High School Essay Contest!**

**Open to all 9th, 10th, 11th and 12th grade students in the region!**



**February 4<sup>th</sup> 2024 marks the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the launch of Facebook. Originally built to connect Harvard students, Mark Zuckerberg's social media website soon went global. Today, it is the flagship product of one of the most valuable companies in the world with nearly three billion active monthly users; over a third of the world's population. In the years that followed Twitter, You Tube, LinkedIn, Instagram, Snapchat and Tiktok arrived on the scene and now social is media is ingrained into most of the world's cultures and societies. In the span of just two decades the phenomenon has impacted people from all walks of life and changed the way humans now communicate, get information, form opinions, start relationships and network both socially and professionally.**

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With all the benefits that have come with its invention, we are now learning the negative impacts that Social Media is beginning to have on our society. Concerns such as effects on mental health, social media addiction, disinformation, cyberbullying to name a few. In this the year of social media's 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary, the **Richard I Bong Veterans Historical Center asks:**

**How do you feel social Media has impacted your life personally, positively and negatively and what are your concerns about the evolution of social media in the future?**



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### Here is what you do!

Perhaps other than only the smartphone itself, nothing has shaped the way we Americans Communicate over the past two decades like social media. Where ever you are and where ever you go social media gives you access to basically the entire world. As a High School Student, we would like to know your opinions on the subject of Social Media. In your own words tell us in 1,500 words or less your thoughts on Social Media. How you see Social Media benefitting society and what are your concerns on how it may negatively effect our world in the future. Write a persuasive essay discussing the significance of each side of the issue. Use compelling arguments and data to support your positions on each issue you raise on either side, pro or con. Tell us how you feel Social Media has impacted your life (positively, negatively or both) and what are your concerns about the evolution of social media in the future!



### What can you win?

-The Center will select the top essay and award the winner a **\$250 Grand Prize!**

-A First, Second and Third Runner-Up will also be selected and awarded

**\$50 Cash Prizes!**

-All awarded essays will be posted on the Bong Center Website!

**\*Entries must be received by 5:00 pm Monday April 29th 2024!**



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### Entry and Student Information

Please complete the following student information sheet and email or send it along with your essay to:

**John Gidley: [gidley@bongcenter.org](mailto:gidley@bongcenter.org) or mail to 301 Harbor View Parkway –Superior, WI 54880.**

All essays must be received by 5:00 pm Monday April 29th, 2024

**Name:**

**Grade:**

**City/Town of residence:**

**State/Zip Code:**

**Teacher or home school supervisor:**

**School Name:**

**Teacher's email address:**

**Name of Parent or Guardian:**

**Parent's Email address:**

**\* No Plagiarism or use of AI.**

**\*This form must be sent in with your essay to be eligible!**

**\*You may only enter one essay.**

**\*Remember, You cant win if you do not enter!!!**

**Good Luck!**