



**State of New Jersey**

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

PO Box 500

TRENTON, NJ 08625-0500

CHRIS CHRISTIE  
*Governor*

KIM GUADAGNO  
*Lt. Governor*

CHRISTOPHER D. CERF  
*Acting Commissioner*

February 8, 2011

**TO:** Chief School Administrators  
Charter School Lead Persons  
Language Arts Supervisors  
History/Social Studies Supervisor

**FROM:** Christopher D. Cerf *cpl*  
Acting Commissioner

**SUBJECT:** Middle School Essay Contest and High School Student Essay Contest

The National World War II Museum is sponsoring its 2011 Middle School Essay Contest and its 2011 High Student School Essay Contest.

This year marks the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of America's entry into World War II and throughout the year, the National World War II Museum in New Orleans is exploring how and why the United States went to war in 1941. Students are asked to write persuasive essays indicating whether they think it is important for students to remember Pearl Harbor.

The museum is encouraging middle grades and high school students to write essays to be submitted by March 31, 2011, 5:00 p.m. CST. The museum will accept the first 500 properly formatted entries for each group (grades 5-8, and high school) and the museum website will indicate when 500 entries have been submitted.

For thematic guidelines, formatting requirements and submission instructions, go to [www.nationalww2museum.org/essaycontests](http://www.nationalww2museum.org/essaycontests)

CF/RH/MJK/C:\Documents And Settings\Mmiller\Desktop\Ref. 1263 MS Essay Contest.Doc

c: State Board Members  
Senior Staff  
Diane Shoener  
Marie Barry  
Mary Jane Kurabinski  
Ken Figgs  
Marcia Ashhurst-Whiting  
Beverly Plein  
Executive County Superintendents  
NJ LEE Group  
Garden State Coalition of Schools

[www.nj.gov/education](http://www.nj.gov/education)