

**Superior Court of California  
County of Santa Clara**

**8<sup>th</sup> Grade Essay Contest**

**Magna Carta to Ferguson**

**“Do you think you would be treated fairly under the law? Why or why not?”**

Since the Magna Carta was sealed in 1215, it has taken root as an international symbol of the rule of law. It's also the inspiration for many basic rights Americans hold dear today, including due process, habeas corpus, trial by jury, and the right to travel. Now more than ever, the role of civil rights and due process is at the forefront of American discourse.



In a written word piece of 250 words or less, tell us, “Do you think you would be treated fairly under the law? Why or why not?” Students should examine the role of civil rights in American society, existence of bias in all parts of our culture and fairness and equality under the law. This is designed to be an open-ended question that reflects each student’s personal story and opinion.

Questions and submissions are to be emailed to [lawday@scscourt.org](mailto:lawday@scscourt.org) by **Friday, May 1, 2015**. Submissions must include in the subject line of the email the student’s first and last names, as well as the name of her or his school. The essay contest is open to all 8<sup>th</sup> graders in Santa Clara County.

Prizes donated by the Santa Clara County Bar Association.

