

O Lord, I ask, what will is thine?
As the earth to thee, shan't stay near.
Our freedoms shall dwindle with all time,
If we release our rights due to fear.

Their lives, our fathers in past times gave,
For us, our children, and our country.
Now we will surely be enslaved,
If we hand over what makes us free.

With the turning away from our God,
Comes a time that never has enough light.
If we do nothing but let our heads bob,
Free speech to all will no longer be a right.

Our choice of religion would then be,
As optional as the location of Rome.
We couldn't worship thee as we please,
And we'd have no freedom to pray at home.

O Lord I ask, please spare our country,
From this enclosed darkness that tries to break free.
I ask once more, ever so pleadingly,
Then ye respond, "Remember Me."

“Let no man despise thy youth, but be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in spirit, in faith, in purity.”

- 1 Timothy 4:12

To start off, I would like to thank all those who contributed in making this contest possible. Any chance to help teach us kids how to be more articulate, like our forefathers once were, is a great intention to me.

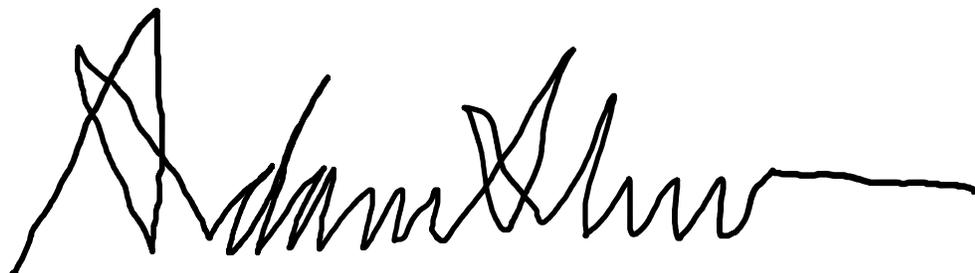
Looking back on my application, you may consider it to be off-topic, however it technically isn't. The theme this year was “What are students' free speech rights on and off campus,” and if you check back at my third quatrain, you will see that I was talking about the rights and opinions of schoolchildren that are often considered inept.

When my fifth grade teacher was in middle school, her teacher was talking bad-mouth about Ronald Reagan, and my teacher stood up for Reagan. Because she didn't agree with her teacher, she got sent to the

principals office, where she was punished. People shouldn't be punished just because they have a different opinion than everyone else. The reason this is happening so frequently in present day times, is because people are forgetting God.

People should always get the chance to express their opinions, no matter their age or gender. Just because children are a lot younger doesn't mean their opinions are any less valid. I get that kids don't have the same thinking capabilities as adults, but they should still get the chance to express their own individual opinions. There are some adults who abuse that right. I'm not going to point any fingers, but a lot of people will use their free speech rights to spread fake gossip and lies about actors, politicians, and even some religious leaders. Everyone getting the chance to express themselves is important, in fact that's what America is all about. The American dream. Thank you for considering my application.

With best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Adam Smith', written in a cursive style.