



## MARGARET CHASE SMITH LIBRARY

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207-474-7133 • FAX 207-474-8878 • [www.mcslibrary.org](http://www.mcslibrary.org)



**“Probably there is no field more dramatically affected by the changes in the mechanics of living than the field of health. The prevention of epidemics, of the spread of infection and disease in the United States, is no longer a matter of precaution. It is becoming increasingly a matter of conditions in India, China, Africa, Europe and the upper regions of the Amazon.”**

— **Representative Margaret Chase Smith**  
**“Washington & You”**  
**October 15, 1947**

December 7, 2021

Dear Guidance Counselor:

The Margaret Chase Smith Library is pleased to announce the topic of its twenty-sixth annual essay contest. Margaret Chase Smith lived through the last great pandemic, the Spanish Flu in 1918, and played a role in dealing with a cholera epidemic in Egypt after World War II. During the past two years of the COVID-19 outbreak, there has been a great deal of debate and dissension about quarantines, masking, and vaccinations. We invite students to tell us what they think the appropriate role of government should be in responding to the current coronavirus pandemic.

Contest rules are minimal. It is open to **Maine high school seniors**. Essays must be typed and double-spaced. Electronic submissions are preferred. Hard copy ones should be sent unstapled. Contestants need to provide contact information (email or mailing address) in order to receive notification of final results. For publication purposes, essays should be no longer than 2000 words. As always, quality of evidence, argumentation, and writing is more important than quantity of pages. The best essays support personal opinions with historical context and cited facts. You can sample past prize-winning entries at: <http://www.mcslibrary.org/awards>.

The Library will award \$1000 for first place, \$500 for second place, \$250 for third place, and five \$50 honorable mention prizes. Essays are due by **April 1, 2022**. Prizes will be announced by May 2nd.

Thank you for bringing this information to the attention of eligible students. If they or you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the Library at 474-7133. We look forward to receiving submissions from your school.

Sincerely,

*David Richards*

David Richards, Director

