
Undergraduate Law Review at Pitt

High School Essay Competition

2025-2026



Get Published.

Are you a **high school junior or senior** passionate about law, debate, or policy? Pitt's Undergraduate Law Review invites you to submit your work and gain early experience in legal scholarship. This is a unique opportunity to publish your ideas, strengthen your writing, and connect with a community of aspiring legal minds. Our top three essays will win a cash prize.

Gain Experience.

Publishing with Pitt's Undergraduate Law Review means more than just writing—it's hands-on preparation for your future. You'll gain experience in **legal research, editing, writing** and academic collaboration while contributing to meaningful conversations about law and society.

Grow Connections

Engage with undergraduate editors, university mentors, and aspiring legal scholars. By participating, you'll **join a network of students** who think deeply, write boldly, and care about the future of law and justice.

Our Criteria:

Our writers must be a high school junior or senior, utilize the 22nd Edition of Bluebook, and write no less than 3 pages and no more than 5 pages. Essays should be double-spaced, Times New Roman, and size 12.

Our Deadline and Submission:

Essays should be completed and submitted by **February 21st at 11:59 PM**. All essays should be sent to ulawreviewpitt@gmail.com.

Our Contact:

With any questions, comments, or concerns, feel free to reach out to us via our Instagram [@undergradlawreviewpitt](https://www.instagram.com/undergradlawreviewpitt) or our email: ulawreviewpitt@gmail.com. We look forward to assisting you.

Essay Prompt

The Fourteenth Amendment of the U.S. Constitution declares:

“All persons born or naturalized in the United States, and subject to the jurisdiction thereof, are citizens of the United States and of the State wherein they reside.”

The Supreme Court’s landmark decision in *United States v. Wong Kim Ark (1898)* affirmed that virtually all children born on U.S. soil are U.S. citizens, regardless of their parents’ nationality. In recent years, however, birthright citizenship has been the subject of political debate and executive proposals, raising questions about its scope and constitutional interpretation.

Write a persuasive and analytical essay addressing the legal, historical, and social dimensions of birthright citizenship. You may consider questions such as:

- What was the significance of *Wong Kim Ark*, and how has it shaped the law on citizenship?
- Should the principle of birthright citizenship remain unchanged, or are there compelling reasons for reform?
- How do contemporary debates about immigration, public policy, and national identity interact with constitutional principles?
- What legal arguments could support or challenge restrictions on birthright citizenship under the Fourteenth Amendment?

Note: Essays should be **original** and well-researched, demonstrating critical thinking about constitutional law and its real-world implications. AI can be used to enhance research, but will never substitute the quality of original and critical thinking. Also, all information concerning criteria and deadlines can be found on the first page.

Prize and Publication Opportunity: Winning essays will be published in the Pitt Undergraduate Law Review and will receive recognition for exceptional legal insight and scholarly writing. Our top three writers will win a cash prize.

We look forward towards reading your responses,
The Undergraduate Law Review Team

Sample formatting to which students can broadly adhere:

**UNDERGRADUATE LAW REVIEW AT PITT
HIGH SCHOOL ESSAY COMPETITION 2025-2026**

STUDENT NAME (FIRST AND LAST)

NAME OF SCHOOL AND DISTRICT

CITY AND STATE

YEAR OF GRADUATION

Students should begin writing on the next page and broadly adhere to the 22nd Edition of

Bluebook.