



The Antonio Meucci High School Essay Contest

Sponsored by the Garibaldi-Meucci Museum

www.garibaldimeuccimuseum.com

Throughout his lifetime Antonio Meucci was responsible for many inventions, improvements, and ideas. These innovations included smokeless candles, a tea and coffee filtering system, oil/kerosene lamps and, most notably, the telephone.

In honor of the legacy of Italian inventor Antonio Meucci and Italian Heritage Month, the Garibaldi-Meucci Museum is pleased to announce the 2025 Antonio Meucci High School Essay Contest.

The Antonio Meucci High School Essay Contest is open to all students in grades 9-12 who attend either a public or private school in New York, New Jersey, or Massachusetts. The contest invites students to have fun as they discover, research, and explore one of the four essay topics listed below.

Cash prizes will be awarded to individuals for the best essay.

One 1st prize winner will receive a cash prize of \$250

One 2nd prize winner will receive a cash prize of \$150

One 3rd prize winner will receive a cash prize of \$100

The judges will be looking for:

- Descriptive language
- Spelling and grammar
- Valuable content and/or research

PLEASE NOTE: All entries must be received by Wednesday, October 29, 2025

PLEASE SELECT ONE TOPIC:

1 – The Italian inventor, Antonio Meucci, like Nikola Tesla and Rosalind Franklin, was not recognized for his contributions during his lifetime. Compare Meucci's struggles with another overlooked inventor in history. What do these stories reveal about how history is written?

2 – The great Italian general, Giuseppe Garibaldi, is often compared to other nationalist leaders of the 19th century, such as George Washington. Compare Garibaldi to another revolutionary leader. Describe how their goals, methods, and legacies were similar or different?

3 – This year is the 550th anniversary of Michelangelo's birth and it reminds us that great art can transcend time. Which of Michelangelo's works resonates most with you personally and why? How does his art remain relevant to contemporary society and culture?

4 – Cultural events, such as festivals, parades, concerts, or traditional ceremonies, reflect the values, history, and identity of a community. Describe a cultural event you have attended or know well. Explain the history, significance, or purpose of the event. Discuss how the event brings people together and what it teaches about the culture of the community.

Rules:

1. All NY, NJ and MA students, currently enrolled in a public or private school, in **grades 9 – 12** are eligible to participate.
2. Only one essay per student may be submitted.
3. Essay must be completed by one student only. Group participation for one essay is not permitted.
4. The length of each essay **must** be **250 - 350 words**.
5. Essay must be original content written by the contest participant. AI generated essays will not be accepted.
6. The topic of the essay must be selected from one of the four prompts listed above. Each essay must discuss only one essay topic.
7. No photos or diagrams.
8. The entry must include the student's name, home address, email address, telephone number, grade level and school name.
9. Winners will be notified by email address provided upon entry on Wednesday, November 26, 2025.
10. **All entries must be submitted via email by Wednesday, October 29, 2025.**
11. **All entries must be emailed to acicero@garibaldimeuccimuseum.org**

Any questions please contact:

AnnMarie Cicero, School Program Coordinator

(718) 442-1608 acicero@garibaldimeuccimuseum.org

**** Please email all essay submissions to acicero@garibaldimeuccimuseum.org by Wednesday, October 29, 2025****