

# \$10,000 offered in contest for Constitution's birthday

A high school student will win \$10,000 in a writing competition now being staged in conjunction with the 200th anniversary celebration of the U.S. Constitution next year.

Open to all high school students in grades 9-12 during the 1986-87 school year, and to those aged 14-18 not enrolled in the college, the competition will involve students from every state, the District of Columbia and the combined territories.

The competition is being co-sponsored by the Commission on the Bicentennial of the United States Constitution, the American Bar Association and USA TODAY/Gannett Co. Inc.

The Constitution was signed Sept. 17, 1787, in Philadelphia. To celebrate that event, the Bicentennial Commission, headed by Chief Justice Warren E. Burger, is coordinating activities throughout the nation.

Three winners will be selected from each state, the District of Columbia and the combined territories. The first-place winners each will receive \$1,000; second-place winners, \$500;

and third-place winners, \$250.

In addition, the first-place winners and a teacher or other adult will receive an all-expense paid, round trip to Washington, D.C., in September 1987 to meet the president, the chief justice, leaders of Congress and members of the Bicentennial Commission. At that time, the national winner will be selected from among the first-place winners.

The topic for the competition is: "The Constitution: How Does the Separation of Powers Help Make it Work?"

Entries must be limited to 1,500 words, excluding footnotes, and must be typewritten, computer-generated or written in legible longhand in ink.

All entries must be accompanied by an official entry form and must include the original essay and two copies.

Teachers, students and parents seeking more information about the competition may send a postcard to the National Bicentennial Writing Competition, Box 50184, Washington, D.C. 20004-0184. The deadline is April 15, 1987.