

Roger Williams University

**DOCS@RWU**

---

School of Law Conferences, Lectures & Events

School of Law Publications

---

4-12-2024

## **Ruth Bader Ginsburg Essay/Art Contest 2024**

Roger Williams University School of Law

Follow this and additional works at: [https://docs.rwu.edu/law\\_pubs\\_conf](https://docs.rwu.edu/law_pubs_conf)



Part of the [Constitutional Law Commons](#), [Judges Commons](#), [Law and Gender Commons](#), [Law and Society Commons](#), and the [Legal Profession Commons](#)

---

# Ruth Bader Ginsburg Essay/Art Contest 2024

RWU Law is presenting an **Essay/Art Contest: *How has Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg (RBG) inspired me?***

Contest details may be found [here](#).

Judging will be conducted by members of the Women's Law Society of Roger Williams University School of Law. Entries will be reviewed by grade level--- Elementary School (Grades K-5); Middle School (Grades 6-8); and High School (Grades 9-12).

## *Eligibility:*

Students in grades K-12 and attending school in Rhode Island are eligible to participate. The contest is open to private, public, and home-schooled students.

\*Students who are the children of current Roger Williams University and Roger Williams University School of Law employees or students are ineligible to participate.

**Please consider sharing the RWU Law RBG Contest with your Rhode Island K-12 family & friends. The deadline is Thursday, February 1, 2024 by 5:00 PM EST.**

[Submission Link](#).

Questions | [RBGessay@rwu.edu](mailto:RBGessay@rwu.edu)

Roger Williams University  
SCHOOL OF LAW

# RUTH BADER GINSBURG ESSAY CONTEST

RWU Law invites K-12 students in R.I. to submit drawings and essays on how U.S. Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg has inspired them.



2023 Art Winner



High School Essay Excerpt  
2023 Essay Winner



**HURRY! Deadline for entries is  
Thursday, February 1, 2024.**



For further information, visit [law.rwu.edu/go/RBG-essay](http://law.rwu.edu/go/RBG-essay) or scan the QR code.  
Questions may be directed to [RBGEssay@rwu.edu](mailto:RBGEssay@rwu.edu).

Thank you!

## Essay/Art Contest: How has Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg (RBG) inspired me?

Thursday, February 1, 2024

7:00 pm - 7:00 pm

RWU Law

Open to the Public

Registration Required

**Roger Williams University School of Law presents:  
*How has Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg (RBG) inspired me? Essay/Art Contest***

Deadline: Thursday, February 1, 2024

[SUBMISSION LINK](#)

*Categories:*

**Elementary School (Grades K-5)**

- Create an original piece of artwork that symbolizes How has RBG inspired me? Artwork may not be traced or copied. Only original works will be accepted.
- Give your artwork a title. Place title at the top of your page.
- Use materials that you have. i.e., pencil, crayons, watercolor, and markers.
- Paper size: 8 ½ x 11”.
- Artwork submissions may be photographed or scanned and then uploaded. JPEG format preferred. Use submission link on this page.

### **Middle School (Grades 6-8)**

- Create an original essay on How has RBG inspired me?
- The essay title should be at the top of page one.
- Limited to one page, double spaced (about 250 words)

### **High School (Grades 9-12)**

- Create an original essay on How has RBG inspired me?
- The essay title should be at the top of page one.
- Limited to two pages, double spaced (about 500 words)

#### *Instructions for All Categories:*

- The essay/artwork title should be at the top of page one.
- Submissions may be uploaded and submitted via the link on this page. Artwork may be scanned.
- Mailed entries will not be considered.
- Submissions must include student’s name, grade, school, title of artwork or essay, and parent or guardian name & contact information.
- Single Student Submissions only. Artwork and essays submitted are single student submission, no group submissions.

#### *Prizes:*

One winning submission will be selected from each category.

- Elementary School (Grades K-5): \$100 and one copy of *I Dissent: Ruth Bader Ginsburg Makes Her Mark* by Debbie Levy
- Middle School (Grades 6-8): \$200 and one copy of *Notorious RBG Young Readers' Edition: The Life and Times of Ruth Bader Ginsburg* by Irin Carmon & Shana Knizhnik
- High School (Grades 9-12): \$300 and one copy of *Notorious RBG: The Life and Times of Ruth Bader Ginsburg* by Irin Carmon & Shana Knizhnik

All winning submissions will be featured on the Roger Williams University School of Law website and announced at the annual Women in Law Leadership Lecture to be held in the Spring of 2024. Winning submissions will need to present a W-9 to claim their prizes. Winners consent to submit a quality photograph of themselves to be used in print and social media.

#### *Eligibility:*

Students\* in grades K-12 and attending school in Rhode Island are eligible to participate. The

contest is open to private, public, and home-schooled students. Middle School participants in Grade 5 may select to submit in the Middle School (Grade 6-8) Category and submit an essay. Judges will conduct reviews by category.

\*Students who are the children of current Roger Williams University and Roger Williams University School of Law employees or students are ineligible to participate.

*Judging:*

Judging will be conducted by members of the Women's Law Society of Roger Williams University School of Law. Entries will be reviewed by grade level.

*Deadline:*

Thursday, February 1, 2024 by 5:00 PM EST.

Teacher Resources:

[RBG Curriculum Resources](#)

The logo for RWU Law, featuring the text "RWU Law" in a white serif font on a dark blue background.

Search this Guide

## **RBG Essay Contest: Home**

Introduction

*Essay Contest Information:*

How has Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg (RBG) inspired me?



## Elementary Curriculum Resources

- [Curricular Companion to I Dissent Book](#)

This site has 22 discussion questions and activities which draw on Common Core State Standards (CCSS) for reading informational text.

- [Learning for Justice: Exploring Gender Stereotypes in Stories Lesson](#)

This lesson allows children to look at one or more picture books that counter gender stereotypes. After discussion of the book, children will engage in a creative writing activity geared to fostering individual identity and resisting social definitions of what and how a boy or girl “should” be. A free account on the host's website will need to be created to access the lesson.

- [New York Public Library's Books to Celebrate the Life & Legacy of Ruth Bader Ginsburg](#)

This contains a list for kids, young adult, and adult books on the life and career of RBG.

## Middle School Curriculum Resources

- [CNN: Ruth Bader Ginsburg Fast Facts](#)

This is a list of facts on the life of RBG, as compiled by CNN editors.

- [CSPAN Classroom: Bell Ringer: Ruth Bader Ginsburg](#)

This lesson explores the career of RBG and her nomination to the Supreme Court.

- [Learning for Justice: Using Photographs to Teach Social Justice | Exposing Gender Bias](#)

Each lesson in this series builds background knowledge about a particular social justice issue and addresses at least one English language arts skill. The lessons also help students “read” photographs by having pupils describe what they see, identify the mood and point of view, analyze color, light, and shadow, and determine how the photographs fit into the context in which they were taken. Before the women’s movement started in the 1970s, common stereotypes about women suggested that they were more emotional than intelligent, that they were better suited to mothering than to other types of work, and that beauty was perhaps their most important virtue. Thanks to the women’s movement, many of those stereotypes no longer have much weight. Increasingly, women join men in high-powered professional jobs, hold important political positions, and fulfill many roles besides—or in addition to—motherhood. Nonetheless, stereotypes of women persist. Some photos express those stereotypes; others challenge them. A free account on the host's website will need to be created to access the lesson.

- [Learning for Justice: Women Who Inform Our World](#)

Many schools observe Women's History Month to highlight contributions women have made in the past. Use this lesson to help students explore the impact of girls and women in their own lives and communities today. A free account on the host's website will need to be created to access the lesson.

- [New York Public Library's Books to Celebrate the Life & Legacy of Ruth Bader Ginsburg](#)

This contains a list for kids, young adult, and adult books on the life and career of RBG.

- [RBG Documentary Lesson guide](#)

Taught in conjunction with this guide, the RBG documentary will challenge students to think critically about the history of sex discrimination and women’s rights in the United States.

Discussion questions and supplemental materials facilitate further research into related topics such as partisanship on the Supreme Court, checks and balances, activist judges, motherhood and working women, pop culture icons, and the #MeToo movement.

## High School Curriculum Resources

- [CNN: Ruth Bader Ginsburg Fast Facts](#)

This is a list of facts on the life of RBG, as compiled by CNN editors.

- [Learning for Justice: Editorial Cartoons: Gender Discrimination](#)

This is the eleventh lesson in the series "Using Editorial Cartoons to Teach Social Justice." A free account on the host's website will need to be created to access the lesson.

- [Learning for Justice: Ethnicity, Gender and the Courts Lesson](#)

Associate Justice Sonia Sotomayor is the first Latina to sit on the U.S. Supreme Court. This lesson helps students look at her confirmation process in historical perspective. A free account on the host's website will need to be created to access the lesson.

- [New York Public Library's Books to Celebrate the Life & Legacy of Ruth Bader Ginsburg](#)

This contains a list for kids, young adult, and adult books on the life and career of RBG.

- [New York Times Lesson of the Day: 'Ruth Bader Ginsburg, Supreme Court's Feminist Icon, Is Dead at 87'](#)

In this lesson, students will learn about the life and legacy of Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg — including how she not only changed the law, but how she also transformed the roles of men and women in society.

- [RBG: A Reading List by The Library at Washington and Lee School of Law](#)

This site highlights texts written by and about Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg of the U.S. Supreme Court. Additionally, this Reading List provides users with information and video on the nomination and confirmation of Justice Ginsburg, some of her most notable opinions and dissents authored as a justice, and several of the cases she argued before the Supreme Court as an attorney.

- [RBG Documentary Lesson guide](#)

Taught in conjunction with this guide, the RBG documentary will challenge students to think critically about the history of sex discrimination and women's rights in the United States. Discussion questions and supplemental materials facilitate further research into related topics



such as partisanship on the Supreme Court, checks and balances, activist judges, motherhood and working women, pop culture icons, and the #MeToo movement.

## [RWU Law Reference Staff](#)



## [RWU Law Reference Staff](#)

### Contest Rules and Instructions

#### Elementary School (Grades K-5)

- Create an original piece of artwork that symbolizes **How has RBG inspired me?** Artwork may not be traced or copied. Only original works will be accepted.
- Give your artwork a title. Place title at the top of your page.
- Use materials that you have. i.e., pencil, crayons, watercolor, and markers.
- Paper size: 8 ½ x 11”.
- Artwork submissions may be photographed or scanned and then uploaded. JPEG format preferred.
- Use submission link found at the bottom of this page.

### Middle School (Grades 6-8)

- Create an original essay on ***How has RBG inspired me?***
- The essay title should be at the top of page one.
- Limited to one page, double spaced (about 250 words).
- Use submission link found at the bottom of this page.

### High School (Grades 9-12)

- Create an original essay on ***How has RBG inspired me?***
- The essay title should be at the top of page one.
- Limited to two pages, double spaced (about 500 words).
- Use submission link found at the bottom of this page.

### Instructions for All Categories:

- The essay/artwork title should be at the top of page one.
- Submissions may be uploaded and submitted via the link on this page. Artwork may be scanned.
- Mailed entries will not be considered.
- Submissions must include student's name, grade, school, title of artwork or essay, and parent or guardian name & contact information.

### Deadline:

Thursday, February 1, 2024 by 5:00 PM EST.

Questions may be directed to [RBGessay@rwu.edu](mailto:RBGessay@rwu.edu).

### Submit Your Entry Here:

- [Essay/Art Contest: How has Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg \(RBG\) inspired me?](#)
- Last Updated: Oct 16, 2023 10:35 AM
- URL: <https://lawguides.rwu.edu/RBGessaycontest>
- [Print Page](#)

[Color Poster 8.5 x 11"](#)

# RBG CONTEST

---

## MEET THE RBG CONTEST WINNERS

Roger Williams University School of Law RBG Essay/Art Contest for Rhode Island Students K-

12

### *How Has Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg Inspired Me?*

High School (Grades 9-12)

Avery Blais

Mount Saint Charles Academy, Grade 9

#### *The RBG Within ME*

I stand on the starting line at the Track at New Balance, overwhelmed. A freshman girl, running against 12 varsity boys, preparing to run as hard as I can. Ruth Bader Ginsberg, the notorious RBG, probably felt a similar feeling to the one that I feel during this moment. A young woman, paired against people who were biologically stronger, but mentally my equal.

It's overwhelming, maximally infuriating. She must have felt the nervous pressure weighing down on her chest, chasing impossible standards, but determined for an equal chance as every man had. How could a young Jewish teenager growing up in a close-minded 1940's society, with twisted idealistic and unrealistic expectations on what it is to be a woman, become the renowned Justice we know of today? She grew through education, using it as a weapon in a male dominated profession, being one of the few women and top students in her 1954 Cornell class. She was able to rise above the scrutiny of a young woman abandoning the idea of a nuclear family for Harvard Law, and later Columbia, where she graduated first in her class. All this success without the support of her older sister and mother, whom she lost before graduating from high school.

Attorney Bader Ginsberg challenged the letter of the law, winning five major Supreme Court sex-discrimination cases when she was the Project Litigator for the ACLU. She impacted the world I live in, the rights I have,

even before sitting on the Supreme Court. She allowed marginalized people to be spoken for, and was an advocate for equal rights. She knew how it felt to be looked down upon and expected less of, all because of the fact she had ovaries. Ruth Bader Ginsberg, the Columbia graduate, one of America's

most renowned feminists, was once a 14-year-old girl. All this, because she had the will to chase the same chance afforded to men.

RBG once said, "When I'm sometimes asked when there will be enough (women judges on the US Supreme Court bench)", I say, "When there are nine. People are shocked. But there'd be nine men, and nobody's ever raised a question about that." She was once me. To me, RBG is a goal. She is an inspiration, and a hero who paved the way for the next generation of Americans. No matter the gender or race, everyone shares a responsibility to protect the constitution

and the rights reflected in it. My feet lift off the track, and I begin. Failure was not an option for her, it's not an option for me either.

---

Middle School (Grades 6-8)

Reese Lourenco

Segue Institute for Learning, Grade 6

### *The Great Influence of Ruth Bader Ginsburg*

“Fight for the things you care about. But do it in a way that will lead others to join you.” That is the famous quote of a woman named Joan Ruth Bader Ginsburg, who was the first Jewish woman and the second woman to serve on the U.S. Supreme Court. Born March 15, 1933, she led the fight against gender discrimination and successfully argued six cases before the U.S. Supreme Court. Ruth Bader Ginsburg was a passionate woman who fought for equality and justice, and is remembered for her pathbreaking opinions on major issues, such as women's rights, voting rights, and health care.

She believed that all people should have equal rights, but her work to achieve equal rights for women was the focus of her career. In a 1979 case, she challenged the notion that girls were less fit to serve on the jury. Ruth Bader Ginsburg explained in 2009, “Women belong in all places where decisions are being made”— including juries. “It shouldn't be that women are the exception.” She also championed these 5 laws to support gender equality; the Equal Pay Act, Title IX, the Pregnancy Discrimination Act, the Family and Medical Leave Act, and the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act. This inspired me because soon, at my school, I will be a 6th grade community leader, and the bravery Ruth Bader Ginsburg had as a leader is like an example for what I have to achieve as one.

Community leaders are students who are selected to

be the voice of the students and speak for the students and what they all as a collective believe in, and Ruth Bader Ginsburg has shown me what you need to be able to do in order to be successful in the role as a leader.

Another way she was an inspiration is the fact that even though she was sick with colon cancer, she kept working at the Supreme Court. Ruth Bader Ginsburg had her first experience with cancer in 1999 when the doctors discovered colon cancer at an early stage by accident because of an unrelated abdominal infection. 10 years later, when she was undergoing regular screenings, doctors discovered pancreatic cancer and removed part of her pancreas and her spleen. This is inspiring because although she was sick, she never stopped fighting for what she believed in and what she thought was better for the world. It tells me that even if something bad is going on in my life, I should still be true to my role as a community leader.

In conclusion, Ruth Bader Ginsburg has inspired me and the entire world with her bravery and perseverance. Although she's not with us anymore, she will always be remembered for her accomplishments to make the world a better place. Ruth Bader Ginsburg is such an inspiration on

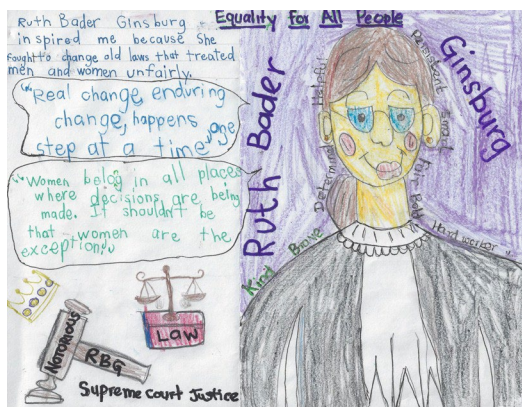
people who will take over roles as types of leaders, including me taking on the role as community leader. To me, she is a symbol of hope and perseverance and just inspires me to keep pushing on.

Elementary School (Grades K-5)

Visaagan Vipakaran

Woodridge Elementary School, Grade 5

### *Equality for All People*





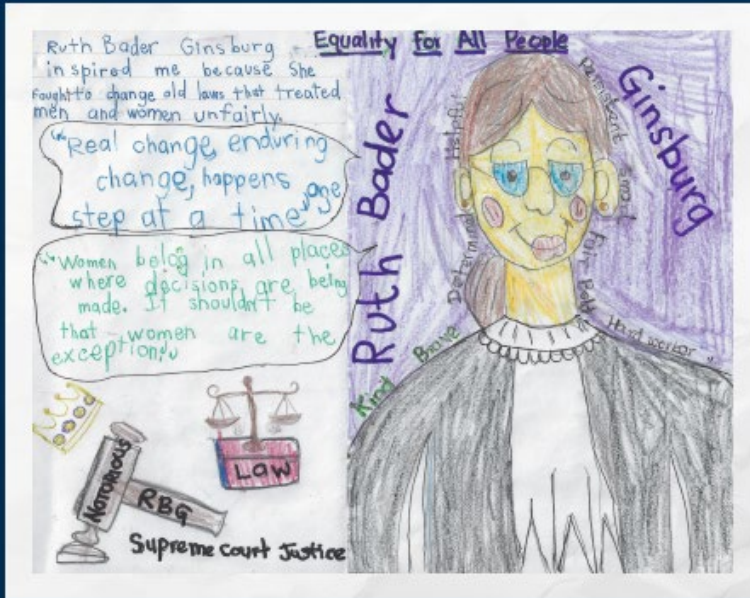
**2024 RWU Law RBG Winners announced at the RWU Women in Law Leadership Lecture on April 4.**

(L to R) Visaagan Vipakaran, Woodridge Elementary School, Grade 5; Avery Blais, Mount Saint Charles Academy, Grade 9; Rosie Hidalgo, Director, Office on Violence Against Women (OVW), U.S. Department of Justice; Emily Sack, RWU Law Professor; Reese Lourenco, Segue Institute for Learning, Grade 6; RWU Law Women's Law Society President Andrea Staehelin L'24; and Gregory W. Bowman, RWU Law Dean.

Winning Artwork below.

# RWU LAW RBG CONTEST WINNER 2024

*How has Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg inspired me?*



## VISSAGAN VIPAKARAN

Elementary School Winner — Grade 5  
Woodbridge Elementary School, Cranston  
*Equality for All People*

Roger Williams University  
SCHOOL OF LAW