

**NORTHEAST TEXAS CHAPTER 416 AIR FORCE ASSOCIATION**  
**ESSAY CONTEST School Year 2021 – 2022 Entry Form**

**Prizes: 1st Place – \$2,000 // 2nd Place – \$1,500 // 3rd Place – \$1,000**

**Define and defend** your position on the following topic:

**In-Air Refueling: Why Is It Important?**

This is not to be viewed as a traditional research paper; however, it is important that you research, evaluate, and synthesize relevant information to reach your own conclusion about this topic and be able to explain your viewpoint. No bibliography or works-cited page should be attached, but **if you quote another’s words or ideas, include a brief, clear in-text reference to accredit the author.**

**CONTEST RULES**

- Participants must be **seniors** in a **Texas high school** (or at senior level if home schooled).
- Contest entry form and the essay must be submitted, by email, no later than **January 15, 2022.**
- All participants **must sign the release below** and include it with the entry form.

**FORMATTING—essays are to be**

- Titled with the essay topic centered at the top of the first page.
- No more than two pages in length.
- Typed in Times New Roman, 12-point font.
- Double-spaced (Separate your title from the first line of your essay with an extra blank line.)
- Indented one-half inch at the beginning of each paragraph.
- Marked with your name in the top right-hand corner as a header.
- Marked with page numbers centered at the bottom of each page.
- Written using correct grammar and sentence structure.

**ADDITIONAL DATA**

Historically, in-air refueling is a very significant mission for Air Force operations and other U.S. services, as well as NATO and other allied operations. Currently, there are several issues at the forefront for the Air Force and much political attention pertaining to the refueling process. A few concerns include the age of the fleet, costs associated with supporting refueling missions, and delays in the delivery of new airframes.

In your essay, you might consider the following: history, importance, approaches/solutions to known problems.

**OTHER CONSIDERATIONS**

In answering the themed question, remember that there are no right or wrong answers. Your challenge is to narrow down to 1-2 targets, describe your position, assess the pros and cons associated with it, and establish and defend it—in just two pages. Your objective is to research facts, select and define your position(s), and frame your response. It is critical that you relate your position to the impact it has on national security.

Numerous sources of information are available: news broadcasts, talk shows, newspapers, magazines, and the internet. Find appropriate, supportive information and use it to develop your position. The Air Force Association website ([www.AFA.org](http://www.AFA.org)) and the Air Force website ([www.af.mil](http://www.af.mil)) have a wide range of information and articles pertaining to the topic.

**We know you are talented, bright, and able!**

**We look forward to your response and appreciate your interest. Good luck!**

If you have questions, please contact :

**Vance Clarke // 903-274-9981 // [TX416.Northeast.Treasurer@afa.org](mailto:TX416.Northeast.Treasurer@afa.org) / [vanceclarkel@gmail.com](mailto:vanceclarkel@gmail.com)**

**Caitlin Nance // 903-272-7599 // [caitlinnance11@gmail.com](mailto:caitlinnance11@gmail.com)**

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ESSAY CONTEST School Year 2021 – 2022 Entry Form**

**This page must be submitted with your essay no later than January 15, 2022.**

Name of Participant: (Please print: First – Middle – Last)

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Address: (Please print: Street, City, State, Zip Code)

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Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Student Email: \_\_\_\_\_

School: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent / Guardian Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent / Guardian Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**In-Air Refueling: Why Is It Important?**

*I hereby grant permission to the Air Force Association, chapter 416, state of Texas and AFA National, to publish in any publication of its choice, any essay and related materials or information I submit.*

Participant Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Return signed entry form and essay by email to: [TX416.Northeast.Treasurer@afa.org](mailto:TX416.Northeast.Treasurer@afa.org)**

**AFA 416 Northeast Texas  
PO Box 8633  
Greenville, TX 75404-8633**