

# NORTHEAST TEXAS CHAPTER 416 AIR & SPACE FORCES ASSOCIATION ESSAY CONTEST School Year 2023 – 2024 Entry Form

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

**Define and defend** your position on the following topic: **Hypersonic Weapons: Why the need for speed?**

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 credit 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 12, 2024**.
- All participants **must sign the release below** and include it with the essay in 2 separate PDF documents  
Documents names: **Lastname Firstname 2024 416 Entry // Lastname Firstname 2024 416 Essay**

## 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

Hypersonic weapons development is a big topic in many countries militaries as well as U.S. Air & Space Forces operations and other U.S. services. NATO, other allied operations, and our potential adversaries are all developing hypersonic weapons technology. The need to remain dominant or equivalent to our adversaries is part of the drive for these new and fast weapons. The Mitchell Institute, associated with the Air & Space Forces Association, has a great deal of information on this subject. This is an important issue and one that should be of interest to take a stand on and write about. In your essay, you might consider the following: history, importance, service uses and for what effects.

## OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

In answering the question, remember 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, 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 & Space Forces Association website ([www.AFA.org](http://www.AFA.org)), specifically, The Mitchell Institute ([www.mitchellaerospacepower.org](http://www.mitchellaerospacepower.org)) and the Air Forces 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) / [vanceclarke1@gmail.com](mailto:vanceclarke1@gmail.com)**

**NORTHEAST TEXAS CHAPTER 416 AIR & SPACE FORCES ASSOCIATION  
ESSAY CONTEST School Year 2023 – 2024 Entry Form**

**This page must be submitted with your essay no later than January 12, 2024.**

**A PDF of this form along with PDF / Word Version of your essay must be submitted.**

**DO NOT submit Google or other Links; must send 2 PDFs – (1) Entry (this page) and (2) Essay.**

**Documents names: Lastname Firstname 2024 416 Entry // Lastname Firstname 2024 416 Essay**

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: \_\_\_\_\_

## **Hypersonic Weapons: Why the need for speed?**

*I hereby grant permission to the Air & Space 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 all addresses below:**

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