

**NORTHEAST TEXAS CHAPTER 416 AIR FORCE ASSOCIATION**  
**EARLE NORTH PARKER ESSAY CONTEST**  
School Year 2018 – 2019 Entry Form

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

\_\_\_\_\_

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

\_\_\_\_\_

Home/Cell Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ School: \_\_\_\_\_

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

E-Mail Contact for Student: \_\_\_\_\_

ESSAY TOPIC – Define and support your position on the following topic:

**How might the emerging technologies of Robotics and Artificial intelligence affect, both positively and negatively, the operations of the United States Air Force?**

(See attached sheet with additional information and data on the topic.)

**CONTEST RULES:**

- Participants must be a **senior in a State of Texas High School** (or at senior level if home schooled).
- Essays must pertain to the Essay Topic shown above; ensure you read and use attached info.
- Font size will be **12 point** and margins will be **1 inch on all sides**.
- Reference material will not be included in the essay, but sources may be mentioned.
- Essays must be no more than **two pages** and be typed, double-spaced, on 8½ x 11-inch white paper.
- Participant name will be typed in the upper right corner of each page of the essay, submitted as part of the contest entry. Pages must be **numbered sequentially**, at the bottom of each page
- Essay topic must be typed, centered at the top of page one of the essay, two spaces above the first line of the first paragraph
- All information required on this form (above) and signature below must be provided
- Grammar and proper punctuation will be scored
- Contest entry form and the essay must be postmarked by emailed by January 18, 2019
- All participants **must sign the release below**, and include it with the entry form

*I hereby grant permission to the Air Force Association, chapter, 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 entry form by email:**

Attn: Vance Clarke  
[TX416.Northeast@afa.org](mailto:TX416.Northeast@afa.org) // 903-274-9981  
AFA 416 Northeast Texas  
PO Box 8633  
Greenville, TX 75404-8633

Prizes:  
1st Place – \$1000  
2nd Place – \$ 750  
3rd Place – \$ 500

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**ADDITIONAL DATA**

Robotics and Artificial Intelligence (AI) are not new topics. Both were used in early forms during the Second World War by both the Axis and Allied powers. However, the vast improvements in robotics have led to wide use by the United States and its allies in the ongoing conflicts in the Middle East both in the air and on the ground. These techniques protect the operators from hostile fire while increasing capabilities by not having to account for the needs of an on-board pilot or technician while reducing system inputs and costs. Similarly, AI is intimately linked to robotics which is promising to increase mission success with almost instantaneous responses to changes in the environment.

Is this the only advantage? Are there risks involved? For example, automated technology is completely dependent on radio frequency communications, which may be tampered with by a technologically capable opponent. If the communications link is broken or tampered with, it could mislead an automated system and could be disastrous. At least for now, the abilities of a trained pilot or technician can allow for quick response to sudden, unexpected changes in the mission profile that may not be programmed into a completely automated weapon system.

The challenge of this topic is for you to research available information, decide on a position to take, and write a two-page essay on what you think and why.

**Things to consider:**

In answering the theme question, remember that there are no right or wrong answers. Your challenge is to research your facts, pick and define the position you will discuss, and frame your response within the two-page limit, while supporting why you feel this position is important to national security.

There are numerous sources of information: news broadcasts, talk shows, newspapers and magazines, and of course, the internet. Find appropriate support, and turn it into a well-documented opinion. The Air Force Association website at [www.AFA.org](http://www.AFA.org) has a wide range of well-done articles on both aspects of the question, as does the Air Force website, [www.af.mil](http://www.af.mil), and there are many more than we can possibly mention. We know you are bright, talented, and able! We look forward to your response.

**Good luck and thanks for your interest!**