



Margaret Chase Smith Essay Contest



“One of the great threats to our country today is the preying of narcotic peddlers upon our children. These human vultures are literally selling your country and mine down the river in sly but devastating demoralization of the very future of our country — that future that is symbolized by our children.”

**--Margaret Chase Smith
Statement for WBZ Radio
Boston, September 10, 1951**



When Margaret Chase Smith was young, attitudes toward drugs and tobacco were more permissive than today. Her husband, Clyde Smith, was prescribed cocaine and handed out “Vote for Smith” cigarettes as campaign souvenirs. On the other hand, as the sheriff of Somerset County, he enforced temperance laws. By the 1950s, Senator Margaret Chase Smith was warning about “dope peddlers” and calling for a “crusade against this evil crime.” Since the 1980s, the nation has waged another war on substance abuse, with results that have been as problematic as the Prohibition crusade of the 1920s. In light of this historical background, the Margaret Chase Smith Library invites Maine high school seniors to write an essay on how they would address the current lethal drug epidemic.

The Library will award **\$1000** for first place, **\$500** for second place, **\$250** for third place, and five **\$50** honorable mention prizes. Essays are due by **April 1, 2017**. Prizes will be announced on May 1st.



To submit entries or for more information, please contact:

John Taylor
Margaret Chase Smith Library
56 Norridgewock Avenue
Skowhegan, ME 04976
(207) 474-7133
e-mail: jtaylor@mcslibrary.org
web: www.mcslibrary.org/awards/