

POV - Point Of View 2026

The 250th Anniversary of the U.S. Independence

2026 marks the 250th anniversary of the U.S. Independence. Portugal was among the first countries to recognize U.S. independence, and both countries have maintained a strong friendship for more than two centuries. The [Luso-American Development Foundation](#) (FLAD) takes this opportunity to celebrate this long-lasting relationship, and, in this context, is organizing an essay contest to learn what young US citizens of Portuguese-descent think about the relationship between Portugal and the United States.

The contest will select three articles reflecting on the relationship between Portugal and the U.S. Authors may include connections to the 250th anniversary of the U.S. Independence.

Applications are open from July 4th until September 20th, 2026.

This initiative is an opportunity for young US citizens of Portuguese-descent to connect with their heritage, and it is part of FLAD's mission to encourage the connection of the next generation of Portuguese-American leaders with the country of their ancestors.

What does the award consist of?

FLAD will select three articles. The first-place winner will receive a prize of \$2,000 and will have the opportunity to have their article published in a Portuguese-American media outlet.

Second place will be awarded jointly to two candidates, who will each receive a prize of \$1,000.

Who is eligible to apply?

All young people between the ages of 18 and 23 (as of the application deadline) who are US citizens of Portuguese ancestry are eligible.

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What are the requirements for submitting an article?

The text must be original (not previously published) and should present the author's perspective on the topic. Submitted articles must not exceed 3,500 characters (including spaces) and must be written in English.

How to submit your application?

Applications must be submitted via the online form available at this link:

<https://flad.my.salesforce-sites.com/CandidaturaMain?language=en>

On the form, applicants should submit their essay along with their résumé.

Only applications submitted via this form will be accepted.

The application period runs from July 4th until September 20th.

How are candidates evaluated?

Applications will be reviewed by FLAD, which will select the three winners.

To better assess the applicant's knowledge of the topic covered in the article, some applicants may be interviewed.

If you have any questions about this call, please contact FLAD by email: relacoes.transatlanticas@flad.pt.