

# Call for Papers

## 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Gayarre Conference

# ORIGIN STORIES

**April 1, 2025**

**Paper Proposal Deadline: Friday, February 7, 2025**

The Gayarre History Club of C.E. Byrd High School, Shreveport, Louisiana, a chartered member of the National History Club, is pleased to announce and invite submissions for the 13<sup>th</sup> annual Gayarre Conference for secondary students.

Papers should be based on primary and secondary sources and provide innovative perspectives on the theme. If selected, the author will be given the opportunity to present his/her paper at the Conference.

Proposals should include the title and an abstract of the proposed paper of no more than 200 words. Include a biography of the author of no more than 100 words written in the third person.

Submit proposals at [www.gayarre.org](http://www.gayarre.org)

### **Possible approaches to the theme (Others encouraged):**

Historians examine and develop claims about the origin stories of individuals, institutions, nations, ideas, technology, and art. Understanding where something comes from helps historians understand the processes of historical causation and change. Students are encouraged to critically examine or compare origin stories and consider varying perspectives to develop an argument about origins. Some questions to consider: How does the way in which an origin story proceeds affect the result? How does our understanding of an origin story shift our understanding of the individual or institution? In what ways are origin stories used to help us make sense of historical processes?

# SAMPLE PROPOSAL

**John Q. Historian**  
**Anytown High School**  
**Mrs. S.S. Teacher**  
[jqhistorian@gmail.com](mailto:jqhistorian@gmail.com)

## **Andrew Jackson: Founder of the Democratic Party**

**Proposal:** President Andrew Jackson crafted the modern political framework for both of the current major parties in the United States in his founding of the Democratic Party through his denial and support of states' rights as seen in his dealing with the Nullification Crisis and the veto of the re-chartering of the Second National Bank. In the 1820-1830s, Andrew Jackson rose as the preeminent leader of the new Democratic Party emerging from the Jeffersonian Republicans. Jackson ushered in the Era of the Common Man and brought about radical changes in American politics. Through examination of his personal writings, including letters and official documents, especially vetoes, Jackson should be seen as a revolutionary leader and the founder of the new political philosophies of the second party system of the United States and a focus on the "common man."

**Biography:** John Q. Historian is a junior at Anytown High School where he is actively involved in numerous clubs and activities, including Kiwanis International, Underwater Basket Weaving Club, Jazz Band, and the Croquet Team. He has won awards at the State Literary Rally and Social Studies Fair. He hopes to attend Oxford University to pursue a degree in the medical field. He is the son of James and Jennifer Historian.

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