



# ASSOCIATION OF THE UNITED STATES ARMY

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## 2023 Essay Topic: AUSA's LTG Theodore Stroup, Jr., Scholarship Essay

Read the following article: SM Robert Nelson, SM Gabriel Arnold, “Put Down That Smartphone and Show Courage to Learn,” *ARMY*, January 2023, <https://www.ausa.org/articles/put-down-smartphone-and-show-courage-learn>.

Consider the authors' contention that nothing can educate you so well as reading good books, that having all of the internet available in your pocket is no replacement for having a well-read mind in your head. In two to three paragraphs, summarize their argument.

Then, ask someone (a parent, guardian, teacher, coach, etc.) to help you keep yourself accountable for the next two weeks while you *strictly* limit the use of your smartphone to thirty minutes a day, leaving it at home or in your locker instead of carrying it in your pocket throughout the day. This will work best if you can do it together with your peers as a group exercise in warriors' mental dominance.

During these two weeks, read a full-length book (printed, not on a screen) of military history or military current affairs, or a book on geo-political commentary—something that is not part of your regular school curriculum. Ask one of your teachers (e.g., history, social studies, political science, government, etc.) or a parent or guardian for reading suggestions. Again, you might find this easier if you choose one together with your peers so you can encourage each other in your experiment and talk about the book together as you read it.

Return to writing your scholarship essay. Did your mind feel different when you spent more time reading a book and less time on a screen? How? What book did you read? What was it about? Summarize its main points and how you find it relates to current affairs and/or how you can apply some of its lessons in your own life.

*Please note: You must include a signed pledge regarding your limitation of your cellphone use to 30 minutes a day for 14 day—see form. And, submission of your essay gives AUSA the right to edit and publish your essay on AUSA.org/studies if the editorial board wants to publish it.*

Guidelines:

- 1,000–1,500 words;
- Times New Roman;
- 12 PT font;
- Double-spaced;
- Include name, email address and JROTC Brigade on first page; and
- Remember to cite all sources used—failure to do so is plagiarism.