

Number	Entry	Category	Registration Requirements
101	Essay Writing	Early Entry, Non-Performance	Sign up on student registration form. Submit for pre-judging. Dates on website.

RULES

Theme: Evangelistic, Inspirational, Biblical, Christian Growth, Patriotic, Persuasive or Historical

Length: 500 - 700 words

Format: Typed, double-spaced on plain white paper with one full inch margin on all sides.

50 space line = 10 words; 60 space line = 12 words.

-One entry per contestant.

-The essay must be the original work of the student. Plagiarism of any kind will automatically disqualify the entry.

-A good essay will use facts, arguments, examples, and illustrations that allow the reader to persuade himself of the truth he is reading.

HINTS FROM THE ESSAY WRITING JUDGES

Carefully read the Judging Criteria below before beginning your essay. Judges look for organization and persuasiveness in essays. Begin your entry with a strong thesis clearly stated in the first paragraph, then follow through logically, smoothly, and persuasively to support that thesis. Use your own ideas and avoid clichés or generalizations that are not supported by examples or illustrations. Quotes are a good way to support a thesis but should be used sparingly; the judges are interested in what *you* have to say. Careful attention should be given to organization. Judges also look at the technical merits of the piece. Writing should be in the third person unless you have a specific reason for using first or second person. The essay should be neat and free of typing, spelling, grammar, and punctuation errors. Be careful not to go over the length limit. It would not be equitable for judges to allow you more space than they allow your competitors. Finish with a strong, persuasive closing statement. Consult handbooks on writing for further suggestions.

SUGGESTED TOPICS

America Needs Christian Education	What Is Success?	New Laws or New People
Repentance, Revival, and Reformation	The Cost of Christian Discipleship	Freedom Is...
What Is a Christian School?	Do We Have Rights or Responsibilities?	Can You Legislate Morality?
The Fear of God: Antidote to Humanism	Keys for a Reformation	The Umbrella of Parental Authority
The Character Qualities of a True Leader	Freedom's Last Choice	Meekness Is Strength
What One Man Can Do for His Country	Christian Political Responsibility	Abortion Destroys the Sanctity of Human Life
Duties of Responsible Christian Citizenship	Essential Traits of Christian Leadership	How Darwinism Destroyed America
Christians Need Biblical Convictions	Three Ways to Bring Reform to America	How the King James Bible Influenced U.S. History

JUDGING CRITERIA

	POSSIBLE POINTS
I. Concept - An evangelistic, inspirational, Biblical, Christian growth, patriotic, persuasive or historical theme should be given in a precise thesis statement which is examined and discussed logically	15
II. Composition (60 points possible)	
A. Essential points given logically and convincingly	20
B. Use of examples and illustrations	10
C. Cogency and unity: everything in the essay directly supports the thesis	10
D. Valid argument and persuasion without exhortation or preaching; strong closing statement	10
E. Creativity and individuality of presentation	10
III. Mechanics (25 points possible)	
A. Neatness, general appearance	5
B. Spelling, punctuation, and grammar (subject - verb agreement, pronoun agreement, no misplaced modifiers, etc.)	15
C. Progression of ideas and argument, transitions, length of paragraphs	5

Total Points 100

NOTE: As many as 10 points may be subtracted if essay is not between 500 and 700 words in length (50 space line = 10 words; 60 space lines = 12 words).