

**WISCONSIN STATE COUNCIL
KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS
RESPECT LIFE ESSAY CONTEST
STUDENT INSTRUCTION SHEET**

ELIGIBILITY

Students in grades 7 through 12 of all schools (public, private, and home school) in the state of Wisconsin of any religious denomination (or no religious denomination) are eligible to submit an essay related to this year's theme. Please note that the Knights of Columbus is a fraternal benefit society in union with the Catholic Church and its teachings; however, essays from students of all religions (or no religion) will have equal consideration. The Knights of Columbus reserves the right to disqualify any essay from competition because of moral or doctrinal errors.

DEADLINE

Respect Life essays should be written during the month of October and submitted to the Council Contest Chairman no later than November 1, 2011.

RULES AND REQUIREMENTS

1. All essays must be typed, double spaced, on 8½" x 11" sheet(s) of plain white paper only.
2. All essays must have a title. The theme for the essay contest may not be used as the title for a student's essay. The title must appear on the essay and the Student Entry form. The essay must be attached to the Student Entry form for proper identification.
3. No form of identification may appear on the essay itself, neither the name nor the grade level.
4. The length of the essay shall be 250 to 350 words for grades 7 and 8; 300 to 450 words for grades 9 and 10; and 450 to 600 words for grades 11 and 12.
5. Only original work of the student may be submitted for entry. Quotations and citations of fact may be used in writing the essay, but ideas must be expressed in the student's own words and carry much greater importance.
6. Judges will use the following criteria in selecting the best essays from each age group:

Expression of Ideas	40 points
Factual Correctness	10 points
Originality	10 points
Relationship to Theme	20 points
Grammar and Spelling	20 points

Any essay with a score below 65 points will be disqualified from the contest.

Local councils or the state council of the Knights of Columbus may decide to publish essays of diocesan or state winners in church bulletins, local newspapers, newsletters, or other publications. The Student Entry form contains a "Consent For Publication" section. Be sure to indicate "Yes" or "No" on the form and have it signed by the student and a parent (or legal guardian). Student and parents should be aware that a **valid social security number is required** to receive United States savings bonds as awards. Failure to submit a valid social security number implies your willingness to forgo the savings bond from the Knights of Columbus if you earn a place.