

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

**ELIGIBILITY**

Students in grades 7 through 12 of all schools (private, public and home) in the state of Wisconsin, of any 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 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 are to be written during the month of October and submitted to the Council Contest Chairman no later than November 1.

**RULES AND REQUIREMENTS**

1. All essays must be typed, double-spaced, on 8-1/2" 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. The title must appear on the essay and on the Student Entry form. The essay needs to be attached to the Student Entry form for proper identification.
3. No form of identification may appear on the essay, neither the name nor the grade level.
4. The length of essay, in words, for the various grade levels shall be:  
Grades 7 & 8 – 250 to 350  
Grades 9 & 10 – 300 to 450  
Grades 11 & 12 – 450 to 600
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 expression of ideas in the students own words carries much greater importance
6. Judges will use the following criteria in selecting the best essays from each age group:

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

Any essay scoring under 65 points will be disqualified from the contest.

The Knights of Columbus may wish to publish some essay winners in church bulletins, newsletters, local newspapers, or other publications. The Student Entry form contains a "Consent to Publish" section. Please, be sure that the student indicates "Yes" or "No" and on the form and signs it. If a student agrees to publication, a signature from a parent is required also.