



**Knights of Columbus
Catholic Citizenship Essay Contest
Delmas Forbes, Jr
State Community Director**

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2024-2025 Essay Topic

What are the two most important virtues for an elected leader to possess, and why? How can you determine if the leader has these virtues? Virtue is a habitual and firm disposition to do good. It governs our acts, orders our passions, and guides our conduct by reason and faith. It also encourages Christians to live in a relationship with the Holy Trinity. The call to live a virtuous life applies to individuals in every state of life and occupation, including our elected leaders.

Rules and Regulations

- The Knights of Columbus Essay Contest is open to all Catholic Students from public, private, or parochial schools in grades 8-12.
- Each essay must reflect the assigned theme and be the student's original work.
- Each Essay **must be typed** and contain between 500-750 words.
- Each Essay **must be double spaced**, using 12- point font and Times New Roman font.
- All Council submissions must have the Supreme Essay Participation Form attached and include the signature of the student and parent.
- One winning essay from each grade level will advance to the next level of competition.
- The student's name should only appear on the official entry form and not on the essay.

Deadlines

- September 1, 2024- Deadline to Order Essay Kits from the Supreme Council.
- November 15, 2024- Deadline for Students to submit essays to their Councils.
- December 5, 2024- Deadline for Councils to submit its winning essays to the Diocesan Event Chairman.
- January 5, 2025- Deadline for Diocesan Event Chairman to State Community Director.

Judging

Essay will be judged on a 100-point scoring system.

- 35 Points Content- How clearly is the theme presented?
- 30 Points Grammar- Does the essay reflect proper sentence and paragraph and utilize correct spelling?

- 35 Points Style- Does the essay show creativity, imagination, and development of the topic in a compelling style?

Awards

- Councils are encouraged to create their own awards.
- Diocesan winners in each grade level will receive a \$50.00 check.
- State winners in each grade level will receive a \$200.00 check.
- State winners will advance to the Knights of Columbus International Essay Contest.
- International winners in each grade level will receive \$300 and a Framed Certificate.
- The Supreme Council will honor two essay runners-up in each grade level and each runner-up will receive \$100 and a Framed Certificate.

Ways to Promote the Essay Contest

- Promote the Essay Contest in Church Bulletins.
- Through local Youth Ministries and CCD programs.
- Consider promoting the program through Catholic Middle and High Schools.
- Try to inspire children, grandchildren or relatives of Brother Knights of your Council to participate in the Essay Contest.