



Knights of Columbus

CATHOLIC CITIZENSHIP

ESSAY CONTEST

YOUR FAITH.
YOUR IDEAS.
A BRIGHTER
TOMORROW.

2026-2027 ESSAY TOPIC

“The rights of man come not from the generosity of the state but from the hand of God.”

— JOHN F. KENNEDY

*U.S. President and Knights of Columbus Member
Inaugural Address, 1961*

Explain what this quote from former U.S. President and Knights of Columbus member John F. Kennedy's 1961 Inaugural address means and its importance for the flourishing of a nation.



CATHOLIC CITIZENS
BUILD A BETTER TOMORROW



WHO CAN ENTER?

All Catholic students from public, private, or parochial schools in **grades 8-12**.



QUESTIONS?

Delmas Forbes, Jr.
State Community Director

☎ 225-939-2980

✉ community@louisiana.com

Or

✉ dcforbes1@cox.net



ESSAY REQUIREMENTS

- Must reflect the assigned theme.
- Must be the student's original work (No AI generated essays).
- Typed, 500–750 words.
- Double spaced, 12-point font, Times New Roman.
- Attach the Supreme Essay Participation Form with student and parent signature.
- Student's name should only appear on the official entry form, not in the essay.
- One winning essay from each grade level will advance to the next level of competition.



IMPORTANT DATES

NOVEMBER 5, 2026

Deadline for students to submit essays to their Councils.

DECEMBER 5, 2026

Deadline for Councils to submit its winning essays to the Diocesan Event Chairman.

JANUARY 2, 2027

Deadline for Diocesan Event Chairman to State Community Director.



AWARDS

- Councils are encouraged to create their own awards.
- Diocesan winners in each grade will receive \$50.00 check.
- State winners in each grade 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.



JUDGING (100 POINTS)

35

Content – How clearly is the theme presented?

30

Grammar – Does the essay reflect proper sentence and paragraph and utilize correct spelling?

35

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



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.

**FAITH IN ACTION.
A STRONGER TOMORROW.**

Knights of Columbus®

CHARITY • UNITY • FRATERNITY • PATRIOTISM