



Knights of Columbus
Catholic Citizenship Essay Contest
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2025-2026 Essay Topic

Out of the 267 Popes that have led the Catholic Church, who are your three favorite popes and why?

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 submission 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 in the essay.

Deadlines

- September 1, 2025- Deadline to Order Essay Kits from the Supreme Council
- November 5, 2025- Deadline for Students to submit essays to their Councils.
- December 5, 2025- Deadline for Councils to submit its winning essays to the Diocesan Event Chairman.
- January 2, 2026- 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 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.

Ways to Promote the Essay Contest

- Promote the Essay Contest in Church Bulletins.
- Through local Youth Ministries and CCD programs.
- Consider promote 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.