

## KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS CATHOLIC CITIZENSHIP ESSAY CONTEST

The essay contest is a creative way to encourage young people to become citizens who are firmly grounded in the Faith.

The Order has expanded the Knights of Columbus Essay Contest to all Catholic students in public, private or parochial schools, in grades 8, 9, 10, 11 and 12 during the current school year. The contest has also been expanded to go through the different levels of competition to the international level.

The theme of the essay contest is “**Going to the Peripheries.**” The contest opens the doors of young minds, enabling the entrants to be creative, thoughtful and introspective in their work.

"Through his Incarnation, the Lord has united himself forever with suffering humanity, not as an abstraction, but throughout history with each suffering person. Jesus is already at the peripheries. The question for us is whether He will be there alone or whether His disciples will be there with Him." —Supreme Knight Carl Anderson

Discuss the role of the Catholic Church going to the peripheries, then select one of the following ideas to complete your essay:

- a) Describe the work of one widely known current Catholic who went to the periphery.
- b) Describe the work of one widely known historical Catholic who went to the periphery.
- c) Describe the work of one person in your life, who helps alleviate human suffering.

All entrants will receive certificates. First place winners from each grade level will additionally receive an award of \$50

### Eligibility

The Knights of Columbus Essay Contest is open to all Catholic students in public, private or parochial schools in grades 8,9,10,11 and 12 during the current school year.

### Timetable

October 1st: Essay Contest begins with bulletin and website announcement.

October 2nd to November 12th: Students work on essay.

November 13th: The last day to submit essay and completed Catholic Citizenship Essay Contest Entry Form to SRE OFFICE or PARISH OFFICE.

**Please submit essay and entry form in sealed envelope addressed to:  
Grand Knight, St. Nicholas Council #10590.**

November: Judges review essays for the council and select the best.

February/March: State judging. Essays due to the Supreme Council for international judging by April 15.

May/June: International Essay Contest winners announced by the Supreme Council Office.

The theme of the Knights of Columbus Essay Contest is:  
**“Going to the Peripheries.”**

### **Guidelines**

Essays must reflect the assigned theme and topic, and be submitted by November 13th to SRE OFFICE or PARISH OFFICE.  
Essays must be the student’s original work.  
Essays must be typed on 8 1/2” X 11” paper, one sided, double spaced, with one-inch margins.  
Essays must be between 500 and 750 words long.  
The student’s name should appear only on the official Knights of Columbus Essay Contest entry form which should be stapled to the last page of the essay.  
All entries become the property of the Knights of Columbus and will not be returned.

### **Judging**

Judges will be selected by the Grand Knight of Council #10590. Council members, clergy, civic officials and/or members of the community may serve as judges.

Essays will be judged on a 100-point scoring system:

35 points: Content: How clearly is the theme presented?  
30 points: Grammar: How well is the essay written with respect to sentence structure, paragraph construction and spelling?  
35 points: Style: Does the essay show creativity, imagination and development of the topic in a compelling style?

### **Sponsoring Organization**

The Knights of Columbus Essay Contest is sponsored by the Knights of Columbus. The official responsible for the local contest is the Grand Knight of St. Nicholas Council #10590.

see the following page for a printable version of:  
**CATHOLIC CITIZENSHIP ESSAY CONTEST ENTRY FORM**