Christian Essay

Purpose

Writing has always been an important means of teaching and admonishing Christians. From the time that inspired authors gave instruction until the journals and publications of today, ideas skillfully and clearly presented have made lasting impressions on the hearts and minds of those who wish to put God's will into practice. Christian Essay challenges students to use the written word to communicate God's Word. Their writing content, style, and message should reflect a respect for the importance and value of communicating God's Word in written form.

Grade Levels

There are four grade levels in this event: 3-4, 5-6, 7-8, 9-12.

Process

- Participants will:

Write an essay that reflects the current year's theme or a passage from the current book(s) of study.

  - Include three copies of the essay and email a copy to seltc.office@gmail.com.
  - Email should have "Christian Essay" in the subject line.
  - The completed Pre-Convention form should be attached to the email as a PDF.

- The essays and other required documentation should be sent to SELTC by the pre-convention deadline. Each essay will be judged and returned, along with judges' sheets, to the students at the convention.

Rules

- Each essay should be 3 to 5 pages.
- The essay should be typewritten, double spaced with standard margins. Handwritten essays (legible and neat) are admissible for students in sixth grade and younger and should be four to six pages.
- The essay should start with the title, followed by the text.
- Each higher-grade level should demonstrate more effective use of the written word.
- Copies of an oratory speech will not be accepted as an essay.
- Each essay should include a cover sheet with the following information:
  - Title of the essay
  - Name and grade of the participant.
  - Name, address and phone number of the congregation of the participant.
  - Congregation LTC Number

Awards

There are 3 ratings available in each grade level – Gold, Silver or Bronze.

Southeastern Leadership Training for Christ		*CHRISTIAN ESSAY* Award: Gold Silver Bronze	
	Exemplary	**Competent**	**Developing**
Connection to LTC Theme	☐ Theme stands out and is strongly supported in essay. ☐ Creativity is evident and blends with the ideas of the theme.	☐ Theme is evident and supported by essay. ☐ Creativity is somewhat evident and blends with the ideas of the theme.	☐ Attention is needed to strengthen the evidence of theme. ☐ Attention is needed to express more creativity as it relates to the ideas of the theme.
Introduction	☐ Introduction is very inviting and grabs the reader's attention. ☐ The theme is clearly introduced.	☐ Introduction is inviting and gains the reader's attention. ☐ The theme is somewhat introduced.	☐ Attention is needed to enhance the introduction. ☐ Attention is needed to the introduction of the theme.
Mood	☐ Essay is clearly the writer's thoughts and expressions. ☐ Humor, personal stories and/or illustrations used enhance the theme.	☐ Essay is mainly the writer's thoughts and expressions. ☐ Humor, personal stories and/or illustrations are appropriate.	☐ Essay is mainly a collection of the thoughts of others. ☐ Some use of humor, personal stories and/or illustrations may not be appropriate.
Writing Substance	☐ Excellent use of grammar. ☐ No spelling errors. ☐ Excellent word usage. ☐ Punctuation is correct. ☐ Thesis statement is clearly seen. ☐ Three to five points in the essay support the main idea. ☐ The conclusion is supported by the previous material. ☐ Organization of thoughts is strong and evident.	☐ Minimal grammar errors. ☐ Minimal spelling errors. ☐ Minimal word usage errors. ☐ Minimal punctuation errors. ☐ Thesis statement is mostly clear. ☐ ☐ The conclusion is mostly supported by the previous material. ☐ Organization of thoughts is evident.	☐ Attention needed with grammar errors. ☐ Attention needed with spelling errors. ☐ Attention needed with organization of thoughts. ☐ Attention is needed to the thesis statement. ☐ There is not the appropriate number of points to support the main idea. ☐ The conclusion is not supported by the previous material. ☐ Attention is needed to organization of thoughts.
Format & Submission	☐ Proper format for submission per manual.	☐ Submission mostly proper per manual.	☐ Lacks proper submission requirements per manual.
Readability	☐ The essay is relevant to today ☐ There is correct use of paragraphs. ☐ Proofreading is evident. ☐ Essay is very engaging and enjoyable to read.	☐ The essay is somewhat relevant to today. ☐ Minimal paragraph usage errors. ☐ Proofreading is mostly evident. ☐ Essay is mostly engaging and enjoyable to read.	☐ The essay is not relevant to today. ☐ Attention to paragraph usage is needed. ☐ Attention to proofreading is needed. ☐ More could be done to make this essay engaging and enjoyable to read.
Judge's comments:			
Please help us improve this rubric each year by submitting feedback within 30 days after convention.			