



Diocese of Allentown

Stand Up For Life



Essay Contest 2017

JOINTLY SPONSORED BY THE **KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS** AND
THE OFFICE OF PRO-LIFE ACTIVITIES AND SOCIAL CONCERNS

The *Stand Up For Life Essay* contest is a voluntary contest open to all students in grades seven through twelve in public and private schools in the Allentown Diocese, as well as home-schooled students at those grade levels.

Four winners will be chosen in each deanery, a first and second place winner in each division. From these deanery winners the top four essays will be chosen and the winners awarded the following prizes:

JUNIOR DIVISION
(Grades 7 and 8)

.....
1st prize \$125
2nd prize \$ 75

SENIOR DIVISION
(Grades 9 through 12)

.....
1st prize \$200
2nd prize \$100

All winners and their parents will be honored at an awards ceremony. The date will be announced in the coming weeks.

Junior Division Grades 7 and 8

Personal Choice, My Body, My Right

- “Abortion is a matter of individual choice because no one can say with certainty when a fetus becomes a person.”
- “Every woman has the right to control her own body and make her own reproductive choices.”
- “ A fetus is a part of a woman’s body because it is dependent on her for survival in the womb.”
- “ The government shouldn’t interfere in this highly personal issue.”

These are a few of the arguments that we hear people stating who believe abortion should be legal. If you were conversing with a friend who made these statements regarding a woman’s right to choose to have an abortion, what would your response be to counter these arguments?

Points to Consider In Your Essay:

- What is wrong with this argument: personal choice, my body, my right?
- Should the public have a right to speak on this issue or is this a private woman’s matter?
- Do only the mother’s rights need to be considered? Does the child have rights?
- Do those who rely on someone else to survive have a right to live if it is not convenient or wanted by the Mother?
- Does the public have an obligation to assist a woman who is struggling with an unplanned pregnancy or should she take responsibility for her own choices?

ESSAY RULES FOR THEME DEVELOPMENT

1. Each essay must be the original work of the student and it shall not have been submitted in any other contest for publication.
2. The theme, covering all points, *must be developed* in no longer than 800 words.
3. The essay must be neatly written or typed on only one side of the paper.
4. The judges are not to know the names of the writers. Therefore, the name of the student and all other identifying information should not appear on the essay. Instead, the essay should be accompanied by a cover sheet, (sample attached) which includes the student's name, address, telephone number, school/parish, and grade. The essay and cover sheet shall be secured by a paper clip – please do not use staples to attach the cover sheet.

All original entries shall be forwarded to the following deanery coordinators* in time to reach them by *November3, 2017*:

BERKS: Len Weckel
570 Guilden Road
Blandon, PA 19510
610-926-3731

NORTHAMPTON: Michael Adams
1930 Fairview Ave.
Easton, PA 18042
484-553-9069

LEHIGH AND: John Fitzpatrick
CARBON: 513 Steeplechase Lane
Allentown, PA 18106
610-530-7728

SCHUYLKILL: Gene Haslam
537 Pine Hill St.
Minersville, PA 17954
570-544-3136

** Your deanery is the county in which the school/parish is located, not where the student resides.*

JUDGING CRITERIA:

The judges shall select the winners based on the following:

THEME DEVELOPMENT*	40
ORIGINALITY AND IMAGINATION	20
<u>USE AND ACCURACY</u> OF REFERENCES	10
CLARITY OF EXPRESSION	10
GRAMMAR, SPELLING, AND NEATNESS	10
CONCLUSION (“I” Statements)	10

*The author developed the essay theme, covering each point, so that the message is communicated to the reader in logical, clear, and concise terms, sentences, and paragraphs.