2017 Writing Contest: Rules & Instructions

Please read carefully as aspects of the contest have changed!

Submission Requirements

• All General Rules must be met.
• Essays and creative writing entries may only be submitted online. Go to www.iahe.net to submit them.
• Participants may submit one entry per category (i.e., one essay and one creative writing submission) but will only receive one award per contest as the categories will be judged together.
• You will be required to pay $6 per entry at the time of submission.
• **All entries** MUST be submitted in ONE, editable, .doc or .docx Word document or a PDF file. It must be in English, double-spaced, using Times New Roman 12 point font. Center the title in bold, 14 point font at the top of the essay. Set the margin to 1 in. for all sides of the paper. Indent the first line of each paragraph using the tab key. Please no colored fonts, backgrounds, or pictures.
• All entries must include a Cover Sheet. Your name should NOT appear anywhere else on the entry except on the Cover Sheet. Anonymity will assure objectivity during judging.
The Cover Sheet must contain the following information:
- Title of Submission
- Category (essay or creative writing)
- Student’s Name
- Student’s age as of January 1, 2017
- Birthdate (mm/yy)
- Word Count
- Address, City, State, & Zip
- Phone Number
- E-mail Address

All entries must be original work with citations for any outside sources. Please use MLA Style for all citations (see https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/01/ for help on this). Any plagiarism and/or failure to identify non-original sources will result in disqualification.

Judging
- All entries will be duplicated and mailed to the judges.
- Creative Writing submissions will be scored on:
  - Mechanics: Grammar, punctuation, capitalization, title, word choice, sentence structure, and adherence to formatting and submission guidelines
  - Content: Adherence to the writing prompt, originality of thought, ability to catch reader’s attention and pull them along with the story; inclusion of a lesson, moral, or Biblical principle as required
  - Organization: Introduction, main plot, sub plots, conclusion; unity, coherence, and fluency
  - Craftsmanship: Overall quality of work
- Essays will be scored on:
  - Mechanics: Grammar, punctuation, capitalization, title, word choice, sentence structure, proper use of citations, and adherence to formatting and submission guidelines
  - Content: Addressing theme and essay question, originality of thought, ability to catch reader’s attention and make them think; use of outside sources and additional Scripture references
  - Organization: Introduction, main idea or thesis, supporting ideas if needed, conclusion; unity, coherence, and fluency
  - Craftsmanship: Overall quality of work
Essay Questions & Creative Writing Topics

Convention Theme: Forged ~ Ephesians 2:10

Essay Questions:

Ages 7-10:

Thinking about Ephesians 2:10, in 200 words or less, answer the question, “What is ‘workmanship’?”. Describe an example of one of your own “workmanship”.

Ages 11-14:

Thinking about Ephesians 2:10, describe, in 400 words or less, some of the good works that God created for us to do. Please use a Scripture verse to back up each point.

Ages 15-19:

The idea of being “God’s workmanship, created for good works” appears similarly in other places in the Bible, sometimes using slightly different word pictures. Using Ephesians 2:10 and at least one other related Scripture, explain, in 800 words or less, what it means to be “His workmanship” and how this analogy should impact the way we live as Christians.

Creative Writing Topics:

- Each story must contain a life lesson, moral, or Biblical principle that is clearly stated before or after the story.
- Stories may be based on true events or completely fictional.

Ages 7-10:

In 400 words or less, tell a story about how something someone made came alive.

Ages 11-14:

In 800 words or less, tell a story about any type of artisan or craftsman.

Ages 15-19:

In 1,200 words or less, using the 1st person, narrate a story that incorporates an artisan, creative endeavor, or a piece of work.