

Christian Essay

PURPOSE: For students to express their spiritual experiences and insight in writing that is creative and pleasurable.

Questions? Contact us and we'll connect you with the Event Coordinator.

PROCESS

Each participant will:

- Be certain that the participant is registered for this event no later than the registration deadline.
- E-mail the project no later than the Pre-Convention Event Deadline (see submission guidelines below):

The Event Coordinator will:

- Assume responsibility for the Mid-West LTC Christian Essay Event.
- Find adult volunteers to evaluate the projects. Be certain that each project is evaluated by **at least** two volunteers.
- Report results and provide critique sheets to the Awards Committee.

GUIDELINES

Participant Eligibility

- This event is available to any registered student in grades 3 to 12.

Writing Assignment

- Please address this year's MWLTC theme. You might consider the following questions as a basis for your work: What does this statement mean to you? How have you experienced God's eternal power in your life? What does this statement mean for the world, both believers and unbelievers?
- Writing piece(s) must be typed.

Suggested Forms of Writing

- *Expository Essay:* An essay that defends a thesis through the art of argument. Consider writing your interpretation of a Biblical story that illustrates this year's theme or explaining your understanding of this year's theme.
- *Personal Essay:* An essay that uses your life and experiences, particularly how you have experienced or how you understand this year's MWLTC theme.

Writing Tips:

- *Use of detail:* In expository essays, always explain why you believe something. Use illustrations and examples. In creative and personal writing, describe with specific detail, trying to create an experience in your reader's mind, with colors, sounds, textures, etc. Stories should use dialogue and develop believable characters.
- *Language:* Creative and vivid; correct use of words; grammatical correctness; use of figurative language (metaphors, similes, etc.).

- *Structure:* Every piece of writing should have a flow from beginning to middle to end that carries your reader through and holds his/her interest. Essays should have a carefully ordered flow of ideas.

Submitting Project

- Upload the writing piece in PDF format ONLY no later than the Pre-Convention Event Deadline, **(Specific instructions coming at a later date)**
- The first page of the document should be a cover sheet which must include the following information:
 - Title of entry
 - Participant name, age, and grade level
 - Participant's email address
 - Home Congregation name, city, state
- It is suggested that you ask for confirmation of receipt.

Evaluation Criteria (Below):

CHRISTIAN ESSAY

Instructions for Evaluators

1. Place bar code label or write student info.
2. Mark appropriate boxes for each criteria.
3. Write additional comments.

Participant Name:

Grade:

Congregation:

Event Coordinator's award: **Gold** **Silver** **Bronze**

	Exemplary	Competent	Developing
Connection to LTC Theme	<input type="checkbox"/> The essay's connection to the LTC theme/ Bible study book is very clear.	<input type="checkbox"/> The essay's connection to the LTC theme / Bible study book is clear.	<input type="checkbox"/> Attention is needed to strengthen the evidence of the connection to the theme / Bible study book.
Introduction	<input type="checkbox"/> Introduction is very inviting and grabs the reader's attention.	<input type="checkbox"/> Introduction is inviting and gains the reader's attention.	<input type="checkbox"/> Attention is needed to enhance the introduction.
Readability	<input type="checkbox"/> Essay is very engaging and enjoyable to read. <input type="checkbox"/> Proper use of personal stories when applicable. <input type="checkbox"/> Thought and time was put into this writing	<input type="checkbox"/> Essay is engaging and enjoyable to read. <input type="checkbox"/> Use of personal stories is appropriate. <input type="checkbox"/> Thought and time is evident.	<input type="checkbox"/> Attention is needed to make essay more engaging and enjoyable. <input type="checkbox"/> Use of personal stories may not be appropriate. <input type="checkbox"/> More thought and time is needed for this essay.
Writing Substance	<input type="checkbox"/> Main idea is well developed. <input type="checkbox"/> Organization of thoughts is strong and evident. <input type="checkbox"/> Word choice is descriptive and enhances the reading experience. <input type="checkbox"/> Excellent use of grammar. <input type="checkbox"/> No spelling errors.	<input type="checkbox"/> Main idea is somewhat developed. <input type="checkbox"/> Organization of thoughts is evident. <input type="checkbox"/> Word choice neither enhances nor detracts from the reading experience. <input type="checkbox"/> Minimal grammar errors. <input type="checkbox"/> Minimal spelling errors	<input type="checkbox"/> Attention needed to better develop main idea. <input type="checkbox"/> Attention needed with organization of thoughts. <input type="checkbox"/> Word choice detracts from the reading experience. <input type="checkbox"/> Attention needed with grammar errors. <input type="checkbox"/> Attention needed with spelling errors.
Format and Submission	<input type="checkbox"/> Proper format for submission per manual.	<input type="checkbox"/> Submission mostly proper per manual.	<input type="checkbox"/> Lacks proper submission requirements per manual.
Spirituality	<input type="checkbox"/> This essay is very spiritually encouraging and / or thought provoking.	<input type="checkbox"/> This essay is somewhat spiritually encouraging and / or thought provoking.	<input type="checkbox"/> Attention is needed to make the essay more spiritually encouraging and /or thought provoking.

Evaluator's comments:

Please help us improve this rubric each year by submitting Feedback on the website within 30 days of the end of the convention.