

## Essay

**PURPOSE:** Written communication has always been an important means of teaching and admonishing Christians. From the time inspired authors gave instruction until today's journals and publications, 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. This event challenges people to use writing 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.

### GUIDELINES:

1. The essay length shall be three to five pages. Failure to comply with this guideline will lower the score.
2. The essay should be type written, double spaced with 1" margins. For students sixth grade or younger, handwritten work is admissible if legible and neatly presented.
3. The essay shall start with the title of the essay, followed by the text.
4. Copies of an oratory speech will not be accepted as an essay. Enforcement of this guideline is upon the honor of each individual congregational coordinator.
5. A cover sheet shall be on the front of each entry, and its format is explained below.
6. Grade levels are 3-6, 7-9, 10-12.

**SUBMISSION OF ESSAYS:** Typed cover sheet shall follow the format of this example:

Name	A. Christian
Grade	9th Grade
Congregation	Anywhere Church of Christ
Congregation number	999
Congregational Coordinator	B. Saved
Congregation Address	1234 Church Street
City, State, Zip	Any City, State 00000
Title of Composition	"(your title)"
Congregation phone number	214-555-1212

**AWARDS:** There are three ratings available in each grade level – Gold, Silver, and Bronze.

### JUDGING CRITERIA:

The essay will be rated on the use of the assigned theme. The essay should blend creativity with the theme.

The essay will be rated on the proper use of the English language, word usage, spelling, grammar and punctuation.

The essay will be rated on its structure as an essay. The current year's LTC theme should be clearly introduced in the beginning of the paper. The thesis statement should be clearly seen, and be supported by three to five points in the body of the work. The essay should end with a conclusion sustained by the previous materials.

The essay will be rated on readability. This concerns relevance to today, correct use of paragraphs, pagination, absence of typographical errors, and the ability to hold a reader's interest.

The overall mood of the writing will be rated. Proper use of humor, personal stories, and illustrations will be evaluated as to the theme. The theme, points, and conclusion should be enhanced by such usage. The work should clearly be seen as the writer's thoughts and expression rather than a collection of the thoughts of others.

### COACHES and CHURCH COORDINATORS:

- Guide the students as they write an essay that reflects the current year's LTC theme.
- Make certain that the students are correctly registered as LTC participants (whether or not they come to the convention) and complete all requirements by the Pre-Convention Two Event deadline.
- Help the students prepare and mail a typewritten cover sheet (described above) with the essay (3 copies on 8½ x 11 paper of both title and essay) to the event coordinator.