



**Knights of  
Columbus®**  
**Connecticut  
State Council**

## **CATHOLIC CITIZENSHIP ESSAY CONTEST 2024-2025 GUIDELINES**

This contest encourages today's youth to be more connected to their community and their faith. The goal of this program is to involve young Catholics in grades 8 to 12 (public, private, parochial or home schools during the current school year) in civic discourse and instill in them religious and life-affirming values. Entrants will be judged on grammar, style, and how clearly they present the theme in a way that showcases creativity, imagination and overall development of the topic.

**For Council Planning and Promotional Resources, visit [kofc.org/essay](https://kofc.org/essay)**

### **2024/25 Essay Topic**

Virtue is a habitual and firm disposition to do good. It governs our acts, orders our passions, and guides our conduct by reason and faith. It also encourages Christians to live in a relationship with the Holy Trinity. The call to live a virtuous life applies to individuals in every state of life and occupation, including our elected leaders.

**In an essay of 500-750 words, what are the two most important virtues for an elected leader to possess, and why? How can you determine if the leader has these virtues?**

### **Eligibility:**

- The Connecticut State Council Contest is open to all Catholic students in grades eight through twelve, in public, private, and parochial schools.
- Essays must reflect the assigned theme/topic and be submitted by the published deadline
- Essays must be formatted for 8 1/2" x 11" paper, double spaced, with 1" margins
- Students name should appear only on the Knights of Columbus Essay contest Form which should be submitted as a cover sheet to the essay

**Councils must submit their winning essays by email State Chairman Andrew Fowler:**

**[Andrew.Fowler824@gmail.com](mailto:Andrew.Fowler824@gmail.com)**

**Submission deadline is January 5, 2025**

### **Program Timetable:**

*June - October:* Councils order Knights of Columbus essay contest kits from Fraternal Supply Store; Contact parish religious education directors and catholic school administrators to promote program in their parish and community.

*November-December:* Councils judge essays submitted and make appropriate awards to the contest winners. Councils submit first place essays in each grade level to State Council for judging.

### **January 5: DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS TO STATE COUNCIL**

*January:* State Council Essay team will judge essays in 2 categories - Division 1: 8th and 9th graders, Division 2: 10th through 12th graders. The Supreme Council will be judging all first-place essays at each grade level, 8 through 12. Therefore, councils should make sure they submit first place winners in each grade level. State Council winning essays are submitted to the Supreme Council for International judging.

*February-March:* State Council will make plans for awards to the first, second, and third winners in each category. Winners are also recorded in the programs report at our State Convention.