



Knights of Columbus

Catholic Citizenship Essay Contest 2025-2026

Student Guidelines

Eligibility:

The State Council Contest is open to all Catholic students in grades eight through twelve in public, private, and parochial schools.

Essay Theme/Topic:

The office of the papacy was established by Jesus Christ nearly 2,000 years ago when He chose St. Peter to lead His Church on earth.

In an essay of 500-750 words, out of the 267 popes that have led the Catholic Church, who are your three favorite popes and why?

Guidelines:

- *essays must reflect the assigned theme/topic and be submitted by the published deadline to the local K of C Council
- *essays are to be the student's original work
- *essays must be typed on 8 1/2" x 11" paper, **one sided, double spaced**, with 1" margins
- *essays must be between 500 - 750 words
- *students name should appear only on the knights of Columbus Essay Contest Form which should be stapled to the essay, please do not put name on the essay
- *all entries become the property of the Knights of Columbus and will not be returned
- *deadline for submitting essays is December 15, 2025

All essays are to be submitted to:

Walter Smolenski
116 Van Cedarfield Rd
Colchester, CT 06415