

## **YOUTH – ESSAY**

There will be **three essay** competitions for the current Columbian year.

Group A: Supreme Essay Competition. “Catholic Citizenship” – 8th thru 12th grades

Group B: California State Essay. “Catholic Stewardship” – 4th thru 7th grades

Group C: California. “Keep Christ In Christmas” Essay – 8th thru 12th grades

The purpose of the essays is to promote an awareness of responsibility and accountability of the students in their Catholic education. Involvement is quite easy and helps develop a relationship between your Council and the youth of the community. The students and their parents become aware of the Knights and their role and involvement in today’s society. Start by contacting all the Catholic school principals, Parish Faith Formation Coordinators (CCD) and the Youth Group Ministries/Coordinators in your parishes. Make them more aware of the ideals on which our Order was founded and they should be willing to participate.

**Eligibility:** Open to all Catholic/Christian students in public, private or parochial schools as well as home schooling. Essay Submissions will fall into three groups.

**Group A:** Grades 8th thru 12th (Qualifies for submission to State and Supreme)

**Group B:** Grades 4th thru 7th (for Council, Chapter and State Levels Only – Does Not Advance to Supreme)

**Group C:** Grades 8th thru 12th (for Council, Chapter and State Levels Only – Does Not Advance to Supreme)

### **Topic for Group A - 8th grade thru 12th grades 2021-2022 Supreme Citizenship Essay Competition**

**Describe everyday obstacles that you may have experienced or witnessed others experiencing while living a life of authentic faith. Explain how you have overcome these obstacles and how, doing so, it has helped your faith to grow.**

In an essay 500-750 words consider that this contest encourages today’s youth to be more connected to their Community and their Faith. Be in civic discourse and instill in them religious and life affirming values.

(This is the Catholic Citizenship topic of the current Columbian year)

The Supreme Competition kit (Group A) can be ordered through Knight’s Gear.

### **Topics for Group B**

4th Grade Topic: **“Ways I share My Time, Talents and Treasures at Home, School, and in My Church Community.”**

5th Grade Topic: **“In my life, who have been my Spiritual Role Models and Why?”**

6th Grade Topic: **“How do I live Jesus’ Teaching, “To Love Thy Neighbor?”**

7th Grade Topic: **“How My Catholic / Christian School Education has influenced My Personal Values”**

**Topic for Group C - 8th grade thru 12th grade**

**“How do you keep Jesus as the FOCUS during the Christmas season”**

The KCIC Essay is part of the **“Keep Christ In Christmas”** project, Family Programs. KCIC Essay entry forms, as well as the Stewardship and Citizenship forms can be downloaded from the State website under RESOURCES, FORMS, COUNCIL FORMS. Group A, B & C forms can also be downloaded from [kofc6038.org](http://kofc6038.org)

**Awards**

Awards are strongly encouraged and recommended at the Council/Chapter levels for Group A & B & C. Presenting the awards at a regular school assembly or at a Mass (with the pastor’s permission) enhances our reputation as a Catholic family organization and provides a special recruitment opportunity.

**Group A (8th through 12th Grade) State level** - 1st Place plaque for each Grade Level Plus \$100 Gift card

Supreme Awards are \$300 for 1<sup>st</sup> place, \$100 for 2<sup>nd</sup> place and 3<sup>rd</sup> place.

**Group B (4th through 7th Grade) California Only State Level** - 1st Place Plaque for each grade level Plus \$100 Gift card

**Group C (8th through 12th Grade) California Only State Level** - 1st Place Plaque for each Grade Level Plus \$100 Gift card

**Essay Rules**

**Group A**

1. The essay will be 500-700 words, typed and double-spaced.
2. The top essay from each grade will be scored by the Council Chairman and submitted to the Chapter Chairman for Group A.
3. All Council submissions must have the Supreme essay form attached and include the signature of the student and parent(s) or guardian. Teachers may be the witness.
4. The Chapter will submit the best essay from each grade to the State Chairman. State Chairman will judge the top essay in each grade group (8th thru 12th) submitted.
5. The State Chairman will advance the top essay in each grade level to Supreme for Group A.
6. Entry sheets must be signed by the Grand Knights with the Council number and Chapter on the bottom of the entry sheet.
7. Students are not to have their name or signature on the Essay, only entry Sheet.

**Group B**

1. The essay must be 250-500 words, typed and double-spaced. Handwritten essays will be accepted but may result in a lower score if illegible.

2. All Council submissions must have revised Council/Chapter/State essay form.
3. Group B Entry form available on the State Website under Forms. Do Not use the Supreme Entry form.
4. The signature of the student and the parent(s) or guardian is a must. Teacher may be the Witness.
5. The top essay from each grade will be scored by the Council Chairman and submitted to the Chapter Chairman for Group B.
6. Chapter Chairman will score top essay in each grade group and submit to State Chairman.
7. State Chairman will judge the top essay in each grade group (4th thru 7th) submitted to State.
8. State Plaques & Gift cards will be awarded for each winner.
9. Entry sheets must be signed by the Grand Knights with the Council number on the bottom of Entry sheet.
10. Students are not to have their name or signature on the Essay, only the entry sheet.

### **Group C**

1. The essay will be 500-700 words, typed and double-spaced.
2. The top essay from each grade will be scored by the Council Chairman and submitted to the Chapter Chairman for Group C
3. All Council submissions must have the NEW State Entry sheet form attached and include the signature of the student and parent(s) or guardian. Teachers may be the witness.
4. Entry sheets must be signed by the Grand Knights and the Council number on the bottom of the entry sheet.
5. Students are not to have their name or signature on the Essay, only the entry sheet

### **Judging Criteria**

All Essay competitions will be judged on the following 100-point system as follows:

1. Content: Clear and logical presentation of theme Up to 35 points
2. Grammar: Organization, sentence construction, punctuation, and correct spelling Up to 30 points
3. Style: Creativity and imagination in the development of the topic and use of proper vocabulary Up to 35 points.

### **Schedule**

July - October: Order Kits for Group A from **Knight's Gear** (#EA-KIT50), on-line PDF as soon as you can.

July - October: Get Entry forms for Group B & C Essays from the California State website under **FORMS** or go to [kofc6038.org](http://kofc6038.org) and download the PDFs.

The following documents can be downloaded from the California website:

- Winners and Participation certificates for Council Group B & C
- Winners certificate for Chapter Group B & C

It will be the responsibility of each Council to download the certificates and print a copy. Winner's certificates should be printed on 8PT Glossy paper. Participation certificates on 110# paper. Any print shop can help you. (Staples – Office Depot)

Supreme Entry Form for Group A, when downloaded from [kofc6038.org](http://kofc6038.org) will have Topic, Instructions and Deadlines. Certificates for the Supreme Essay are in the kits.

Schools, Youth Ministries, Faith Formation Coordinators and those who Home School should be announced through the school Principals, Teachers, parish bulletin or community newspapers.

**Deadlines**

GROUP A	Supreme Citizenship		
Council – December 31, 2021, February 1, 2022	Chapter – January 15, 2022,		To State –
GROUP B	Catholic Stewardship		
Council – January 26, 2022, 16, 2022	Chapter – February 21, 2022,		To State – March
GROUP C	Keep Christ in Christmas		
Council – January 26, 2022, 6, 2022	Chapter – February 1, 2022,		To State – March

Winners will be announced at the State Convention.

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