



Knights of Columbus

Msgr. Witkowiak Council 697
2516 Winthrop Ave.
Racine, WI 53403

Catholic Citizenship Essay Contest Guidelines

- 1) The 2025 theme is: “Out of the 267 Popes who have led the Catholic Church, who are your 3 favorites and why?”.
- 2) In your essay, consider ways these virtues could affect your family, parish, community, state, nation and the world.
- 3) Essays must reflect the assigned theme and be the student’s original work. Essays must be typed and between 500-750 words in length. The student’s name should appear only on the official contest entry form, which must be stapled to the essay. All entries become property of the Knights of Columbus and will not be returned.
- 4) Judging will be based on a 100-point scoring system – 35 pts. for content (how clearly is the theme presented?), 30 pts. for grammar (does the essay reflect proper sentence and paragraph structure and utilize correct spelling?), 35 pts. for style (does the essay show creativity, imagination and development of the topic in compelling style?).
- 5) Entry forms must be completely filled out. Essays are strongly encouraged to have a works cited page to document any non-original material quoted or used. Entry forms should be printed or typed.
- 6) Essays are to be written by students in October and November. They are due to Councils between December 1-15. Councils should determine winners between December 15-31. First and second place Council winners should be sent directly to the Diocesan Program Coordinator by January 15, 2026.