

Evelyn D. Wilkey Iota Essay Contest American Education Week Observance

Chapters are notified each year of the chosen theme for the essay.

The National Education Association – NEA theme may be used or the National Board of Iota Phi Lambda can opt to select a theme based on relevant issues for youth as an essay topic.

EVELYN D. WILKEY NATIONAL YOUTH ESSAY CONTEST Deadline: November 30, 2024

2024 Theme: “*The Importance of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in Education*”

The National Essay Contest is open to all middle and high school students. Each chapter may sponsor a student in each of the categories, being sure to judge each within his/her correct age/school category. Each student will prepare her/his subject based on the National American Education Week theme or National Board selected theme based on relevant issues.

After the local chapter’s judging, send winner from each age grouping to your **Regional Representative**.

The following items should be included with the winner’s essay:

Essay Application
Three typed copies of 500-word essay
Declaration of Originality

To be eligible for judging, the essay must be postmarked no later than November 30th and mailed to your Regional Representative. Essay should be double spaced on an 8 1/2 x 11 white copy paper and the Declaration of Originality properly signed.

JUDGING

The regional representative will select three competent and impartial judges (non-sorors) to judge the essays received, using the **Essay Score Sheet**. She will compute the scores and forward the winning regional essay(s), the judges’ score sheets, and names of **all** participants in both middle and high school categories to the **National President Elect** for national judging by **December 30th**. The Regional Representative will also send names of regional winner(s) to the National Youth Activities Chairman.

National judging will be in the same manner: three impartial judges, who are not sorors, using the same score sheets.

The winners will receive the following:

<u>High School</u>	<u>Middle School</u>
1 st Place: \$500.00	1 st Place: \$500.00
2 nd Place: \$250.00	2 nd Place: \$250.00
3 rd Place: \$100.00	3 rd Place: \$100.00

EVELYN D. WILKEY NATIONAL YOUTH ESSAY CONTEST

APPLICATION

NAME _____ AGE _____

ADDRESS _____
City State Zip Code

TELEPHONE () _____ EMAIL _____

SCHOOL _____ GRADE _____

SPONSORING CHAPTER _____ REGION _____

CHAPTER PRESIDENT _____

CHAPTER'S ESSAY COORDINATOR _____

COORDINATOR'S ADDRESS _____
City State Zip Code

DECLARATION OF ORIGINALITY

I hereby declare that the writing of the attached essay reflects my own work, except where quoted materials are identified. I give Iota Phi Lambda Sorority, Incorporated permission to publish my essay in their National Journal or to use it in any other promotional manner desired.

DATE _____ SIGNATURE _____
Contestant

SIGNATURE _____
Parent

SIGNATURE _____
Chapter's Essay Coordinator

IOTA PHI LAMBDA SORORITY, INC.

EVELYN D. WILKEY ESSAY CONTEST RUBRIC

Name _____
 Grade _____ Age _____
 Sponsoring Chapter _____
 Judge's Name _____
 Judge's Occupation _____

CATEGORY	4	3	2	1	SCORE
INTRODUCTION (ORGANIZATION)	The introduction states the main topic and position. The essay stays on topic; sentences flow smoothly and use transitions to link sentences.	The introduction states the main topic and position. The essay stays mostly on topic; details support the topic and the use of transition language appropriate.	The introduction states the main topic. The position is unclear and often strays from the topic. Transition language is not used.	There is no clear introduction of the main topic and position. Sentences are choppy, with little support for the topic.	
CONTENT (DEVELOPMENT OF IDEAS)	There is a clear main idea supported by elaborate and effective detail information.	There is a clear main idea supported by general information.	Main idea is somewhat clear but has little supporting information.	The main idea is not clear, containing very few details and no supporting information.	
CONCLUSION (ORGANIZATION)	The conclusion is strong and clearly understood.	The conclusion is clear.	The conclusion is somewhat clear.	There is no clear conclusion.	
GRAMMAR & SPELLING (CONVENTIONS)	There are very few or no errors in grammar and spelling. The writer correctly uses first person pronouns and punctuation is used correctly.	There are some errors in grammar and spelling. The writer correctly uses first person pronouns, but there are minor errors in punctuation.	There are several errors in grammar and spelling. Pronouns are used incorrectly, and there are major errors in punctuation.	There are numerous errors in grammar, spelling and punctuation.	

TOTAL SCORE

Revised October 12, 2020