

Laws of Life Judging Information

A judge must be someone capable of comprehending and appreciating the purpose of the *Laws of Life Essay Contest*. Essays should be judged on content. A judge should be able to evaluate an essay for clarity, its general organization and how compelling it is, but the judge need NOT necessarily be a “grammar expert” or English teacher. Judges must not be a parent of a current contest participant.

Judges should not meet together to judge the essays and should not discuss their choices with each other. Each judge should read through each essay and place them in order from best to worst. The judge should then complete the tally sheet (provided). All the judge’s tally sheets together are used to complete the overall contest tally sheet (provided). The essay with the lowest numeric score is the first place winner.

Instruction for Judges

Judges for the Laws of Life Essay Contest determine the prize winners.

Anonymity is Essential

By the time the judges see the essays, they will have been given an anonymous number and WILL NOT have the student’s name on them. If a judge sees a student’s name on an essay it is critical that they bring this to the attention of the committee immediately. DO NOT have them read the essay until it is returned to them with the student’s name having been taken off.

Essay Criteria

Judges should use the following criteria:

Content-Most Important

- A Law of Life. Students were asked to write on one law of life that has been important to them and to explain why it is valuable to our society as we create a strong and hopeful future in the new millennium. Has the student fulfilled the purpose of the essay?
- Positive and life-affirming. Does the essay show a respect for life and people?
- Universal appeal. Would most people agree that this is an important law of life?

Presentation – Less Important

- Compelling. Does the essay move you in some way? Are you persuaded by what they have written?
- Clarity. Can you tell what the student means?
- Flow. Does one thought flow into the next?

Grammar and spelling are not of utmost importance, unless a high number of glaring mistakes that suggest a careless and hastily written essay where the basic concept and flow of the essay are difficult to understand.

TALLY FORM FOR JUDGE'S USE

Judges Name _____

Contest Date _____

YOUR SCORE (RANK FROM FIRST TO LAST)	ESSAY I.D. NUMBER	COMMENTS
1 (Your First Choice)		
2		
3		
4		
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Judges Signature: _____

Date: _____

