

BAPTISTS FOR LIFE OF WISCONSIN
HIGH SCHOOL ESSAY CONTEST CRITERIA
2011

Baptists for Life of Wisconsin are sponsoring its sixth annual high school essay contest. The purpose of this essay contest is to give the youth of Wisconsin a voice for the pre-born, the special needs person and for those who cannot speak for themselves. The winner or winners may be asked to present a speech of their essay at the annual BFLW Pro Life Rally at the state capital in Madison, Wisconsin in January, of 2012.

This persuasive essay contest is for students in grades 9 through 12 on the theme of “**ABORTION ALTERNATIVES. . . WHAT CAN CHURCHES DO?**” Discuss what the Bible says about alternatives to abortion and what local churches can do to become involved..

The essay must be no fewer than 750 words and no more than 1,000 words, typed (*New Times Roman, 12 point font*), double spaced, on plain white paper. Margins should be one inch on all four sides with the heading in bold at the top of the paper. Centered page numbers should be included at the bottom of each page. A signed statement by the contestant’s teacher/home school parent stating that the paper is original and the authentic work of the student must accompany the essay.

Plagiarism of any kind will automatically disqualify the entry. Only one essay per student will be accepted. The essay will be judged according to the following:

1) CONTENT: The content of the essay must show clarity of thought and organization. The essay is not a collection of random thoughts. Have a clear, easy-to-follow, logically developed outline. *Failure to use and follow a clear outline will result in your essay’s elimination from competition.* The tone of the essay is objective, so avoid name-calling, melodramatic diction, and extreme situations. (For example, it would be unwise to write something like this: What if Mary, pregnant with the Son of God, was comatose in a hospital, and an unsaved doctor who didn’t understand the value of life decided to pull the plug?) Perhaps listen to speakers—both historical and contemporary-- who can present controversial matters in a calm, rational manner. Also, be sure to draw conclusions properly and support those conclusions from the evidence presented.

2) SOURCES: Quote and paraphrase from the King James Version of the Bible to support information from a biblical worldview (God’s perspective). Also use contemporary sources to give your material balance as well as to appeal to a wider audience.

3) MECHANICS: Use correct spelling, punctuation, and grammar.

4) DEVELOPMENT: It includes the theme (or thesis) clearly stated in the first paragraph and developed throughout the essay. The logical arguments are argued objectively in the body of the paper. This should also include integral contemporary factual data into your biblical argument. including examples, premises, and conclusions. Paragraphs should transition to form bridges to connect one paragraph to the next. The central idea (theme) is correctly used to make continuity between paragraphs essentially and naturally. The conclusion should restate the theme in more elaborate terms, place it in a wider context, or suggest further application. It is the last attempt to persuade the reader to your point of view. Information taken from outside sources must be documented using footnotes and standard bibliography form*

Essays must be postmarked by MONDAY, **OCTOBER 18, 2011.**

Finalists will be notified by **NOVEMBER 4, 2011.**

At that time, finalists must submit a video (DVD) version of their presentation of the essay to BFLW by **NOVEMBER 11, 2011.** The DVD should be shot from a distance that shows the contestant from at least the waist up. Contestants are urged to have their speeches at least 80% memorized so they can move freely and not be confined to standing behind a lectern and reading their speeches. The judges will watch the DVDs and make a final decision.

The contest winner will be notified by FRIDAY, **NOVEMBER 22, 2011.**

Because of the timeliness of the contest, late submissions will not be accepted.

Essays should be sent in an envelope for 8 ½ X 11 paper, unfolded, to

BFLW,
103 Frank Ct.
Fox Lake, WI 53933

Each entry should be stapled together with the entry form attached to the back as the last page with the signature of the teacher and the student. The essays will be judged by an independent Christian source.

Please make a copy of your essay for your own keeping, as essays will not be returned.

Prizes will be awarded for

1st place – \$400

2nd place- \$200

3rd place - \$100

Honorable Mention

To READ the winner's essay, please go to the BFLW website: www.bflw.org after the annual rally.

*Information taken from the WACS Guidelines for Essay Writing Contest Information.

NOTE: - Students – you should try to read winners essays from previous years. They are available at our website. – www.bflw.org

The speeches of previous winners are also on line at www.bflw.org.

BAPTISTS FOR LIFE OF WISCONSIN
2011 ESSAY CONTEST
ENTRY FORM

Name of Student: _____

(Please print)

Age _____ Grade: _____

School: attending _____

Address of Student - Street _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Home Phone Number including area code _____

Signature of Teacher supervising the writing of the essay: _____

Signature of the Student writing the essay: _____

STAPLE THIS PAGE TO YOUR ESSAY AS THE LAST PAGE.

You **MUST** include the two signatures above to qualify.

Please send the essay and entry form to:

BFLW
103 Frank Ct.
Fox Lake, WI. 53933

All entries must be postmarked no later than Monday, OCTOBER 17, 2011