

## Written Essay Competition Topic and Rules

**Topic:** The participants should remain on topic and provide at least three supporting scriptures. The essay should be a persuasive essay. The essay must provide examples of the problem and contain biblically based solutions.

**Length of Essay:** Essay should be 1½ - 2 pages; typed, double spaced, 12-point font, in Times New Roman style. One page essay for Level I contestants is acceptable.

### **Tips for Developing the Written Format:**

1. Introduction (Paragraph 1) – Begin with an attention-getting statement that pulls the reader or audience into your discussion. State the goals/objectives of your presentation.
2. Body (paragraphs 2, 3 and 4) - Main points; supporting details. Use scriptures support your statements. Be factual. Convince the audience that you believe what you have written or stated.
3. Conclusion (Paragraph 5) – Restate your objectives and summarize your position as discussed earlier in paragraphs 2, 3 and 4. End with a final attention getting statement.

## Rubric for Written Essay Competition

### **1. Guidelines for Grading Written Essay (100 Points Maximum)**

- a) Focus – The paper maintains a clear main idea, sticks to the main idea established in Paragraph 1 and does not include unrelated information. **25 Points**
- b) Organization – All ideas are organized logically. **25 Points**
- c) Supporting Material – The writer presented factual material and utilized biblical references to support statements. **25 Points**
- d) Correct punctuation, capitalization, spelling and sentence structure were used in preparation of the essay. **25 Points**

## ORAL PRESENTATION

1. Use eye contact with audience.
2. Use proper diction (enunciation) when speaking. Practice clarity and articulation when speaking.
3. Be familiar with your essay so that your responses will reveal your knowledge of the subject area.
4. Stay within the time limit to avoid deduction of points (1 1/2 - 3 minutes).
5. Practice your presentation to produce excellence in your delivery and stage presence.
6. There is no reading during this competition, participant is to verbally articulate the essay.