

The NDHSA

2007 Influential Writing Contest - \$50 Cash Prize

God chose writing to help communicate the Judeo-Christian faith to all generations.¹ His example underscores the value of writing to both clarify understanding² and to influence others³ created in His image. Christian home educated children are expected to be examples of the believers with their words,⁴ and therefore we are offering this writing contest to provoke home educators to good writing⁵ and thinking.⁶ It is well known that readers are leaders, but less often mentioned that writers lead the readers. Similarly, as reading makes a person complete, writing makes a person precise in their thinking.

In our wisdom-challenged society, Christian home educators have an important opportunity and responsibility to engage and improve the culture by equipping their children to be led by the Spirit of God⁷ as they read, think, and write to the glory of God. These wise home educated children will then influence the culture and world with precise and complete thinking, understanding that God's Word and Spirit are the unlimited source of Christian creativity and influence.

This year the NDHSA is asking students to research, write, and publish articles in their local newspapers or other influential media which address home school legislative topics. Transcripts from radio or television interviews or presentation are also acceptable. The list of topics from which students may choose to write about were identified and prioritized using a ND support group survey during the spring of 2006. Topics not included in this list may also be considered, but please check with the NDHSA office first.

2007 Writing Contest Topics

- (1) Why the ND law should allow grandparents and foster parents to home school?
- (2) Why the certified teacher requirement for nationally normed test proctors should be eliminated.?
- (3) Why there should be a home school tax credit?
- (4) Why should monitoring be eliminated?
- (5) Why should the nationally normed testing be eliminated?

The Simple Rules

- Home educated young adults between 12 and 18 in a NDHSA member family are eligible.
- One entry per young adult.
- Writing must be completely the original work of the young adult.
- All forms of writing are welcome, including poetry, non-fiction, and fiction.
- A cover letter conveying the title and briefly introducing the writing is required. The cover letter should also contain the writer's name, mailing address, phone number, birth date, name of publication where writing was published, and circulation numbers for that publication.
- Four copies of the published writing (e.g., newspaper clipping, magazine article, web article, radio transcript etc.) with cover letter should be US Mailed to the NDHSA Office for collection and forwarding to the judges. Only copies of the published writing will be accepted.
- Document specifications: 1500 to 3000 characters with spaces.
- A panel of judges shall consider the truth conveyed, its influence, as well as grammar, creativity, and logic.
- By submitting a work, writers grant the NDHSA permission to publish or quote from it. Winning articles may be posted on the NDHSA website and or published in the newsletter.
- One or more of the winners will be invited to influence others by presenting their work orally at the next NDHSA convention. All acceptable work submitted will be on display at the convention to encourage and inspire others.

THE DEADLINE FOR RECEIPT OF THE FOUR COPIES WITH COVER LETTER AND INFLUENTIAL WRITING TO THE NDHSA OFFICE IS DECEMBER 29th, 2006, 5 PM.

Mail to NDHSA Writing Contest, 1854 107th St NE, Bottineau, ND 58318. For questions, call the office at 701-263-3727.

References

1. 2 Timothy 3:16; 2. Habakuk 2:2; 3. Ephesians 4:11; 4. 1 Timothy 4:12; 5. Hebrews 10:24; 6. Romans 12:2; 7. Romans 8:14