

**RIGHT TO LIFE OF INDIANAPOLIS
2026 HIGH SCHOOL ESSAY CONTEST RULES**

1. Each essay may be typed or word-processed and should be **double-spaced**.
NOTE: Please do not put your name or identifying information on any of your essay pages but include the word count on the first page.
2. Each essay is to be from 300 to 600 words and must be an original composition.
3. The questions for the following grades are:

9th and 10th Grade Essay Question

Why are you pro-life?

11th and 12th Grade Essay Question

What have you done, or could you do, to promote a culture of life? How? Why?

4. JUDGING CRITERIA

Judges will base their decision on the overall excellence of the student's presentation. The theme should be obvious and presented in a positive way and should show an understanding of the theme. Good English expression, sentence structure, spelling and grammar are essential elements.

5. Each sponsoring organization may judge and choose one winning entry from EACH classroom of its 9th grade and 10th grade entrants and choose one winning entry from EACH classroom of its 11th grade and 12th grade entrants to submit. Homeschooled students may submit their essay to a sponsoring organization to be judged and submitted. Schools may consider each classroom a separate organization judged by the teacher.

6. The winning entries must be mailed or emailed to the Right to Life of Indianapolis by **April 1, 2026.** Prize winners for each separate contest (9th & 10th grades and 11th & 12th grades) will be determined and announced by May 1, 2026. The sponsoring organizations and the winning students will be notified.

7. PRIZES:

- a. Every student who enters this contest will receive a “Precious Feet” pin. Each sponsoring organization should notify us of the number of participants, so that we can provide the appropriate number of pins for each student.
- b. The top 5 winners in these contests will each receive a complimentary ticket to attend the annual Right to Life of Indianapolis “Celebrate Life Banquet” to be held at The Indianapolis Marriott on **Tuesday, October 13, 2026**. These students will be recognized at the banquet.
- c. Cash prizes will be awarded to winners as follows:
First place.....\$250.00 and a certificate
Second place.... .\$200.00 and a certificate
Third place.....\$150.00 and a certificate
Fourth place.....\$100.00 and a certificate
Fifth place..... \$ 50.00 and a certificate
- d. Right to Life of Indianapolis will award an educational grant in the amount of \$250.00 to the sponsoring organizations of the First Place winners in each contest. If a First-Place winner is home schooled, this award will go to the local, state, or national home school organization of the winner’s choice.

8. Resource material for essays may be found in many good web sites, such as:

Abort73 www.abort73.com
AbortionDocs www.abortiondocs.org
American Life League www.all.org
Americans United for Life www.unitedforlife.org
National Right to Life www.nrlc.org
Life Issues www.lifeissues.org
Live Action www.liveaction.org
Indiana Right to Life www.irtl.org
Archdiocesan of Indianapolis Office of Human Life and Dignity
www.archindy.org/humanlifeanddignity.org
Right to Life of Indianapolis www.rtlindy.org
Students for Life of America www.studentsforlife.org

For questions or to request literature or additional information, please call
Right to Life of Indianapolis at 317-582-1526 or email us at life@rtlindy.org.