

**RIGHT TO LIFE OF INDIANAPOLIS
2026 JUNIOR 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 other identifying information on any of the 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 junior high essays are:

7th Grade Essay Question

The mission of Right to Life of Indianapolis is to promote respect for the worth and dignity of all human life including the unborn from the moment of conception, and the disabled and the elderly until natural death. What can people do to protect those that are vulnerable? What can you do?

8th Grade Essay Question

Why are you pro-life?

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 must 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 7th grade entrants and EACH CLASSROOM of its 8th grade entrants to submit.** Home schooled students may submit their essay to a sponsoring group to be judged and submitted. Schools may consider each classroom a separate organization judged by the teacher.
6. The winning entries must be postmarked or emailed to the Right to Life of Indianapolis office by **April 1, 2026**. The winners for the 7th and 8th grade contests will be determined by May 1, 2026. The contact person of 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 Downtown 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 certificate
 - Second place.....\$200.00 and certificate
 - Third place.....\$150.00 and certificate
 - Fourth place.....\$100.00 and certificate
 - Fifth place.....\$ 50.00 and 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. 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.