

The SW Diocese SS & HYM Geraldine Drake Essay Contest Rules

There are five levels in the contest.

1. Level One (Grades 4 through six)-> 100 words or more
2. Level Two (Grades seven through eight) -> 150 words or more
3. Level Three (Grades nine through twelve) -> 225 words or more
4. Level Four (College) -> 300 words or more
5. Level Five (Learning Disabilities) -> ½ the number of words for each grade.

Judges will be looking for five paragraphs

- Paragraph 1 – Introduction • Paragraph 2, 3 & 4 – Body • Paragraph 5 - Closing
- Paragraphs • # 1 - Tell what you are going to tell them. List at least three points
- # 2, # 3, & # 4- Elaborate on each point
 - # 5 - Pull it all together. Restate briefly what you told them

Judging Criteria

1. Spacing & Neatness - 5 points
Double-space each line. Proper format consists of indented or block style, looks neat on the page, easy to read and has great appearance, legible font, pleasing to the eye, with no erasures and white out, proper margins, and consistent in style.
2. Originality (Creativity) - 25 points
Create an expectation. How is the subject matter expressed? Do the sentences flow smoothly? Did the writer honor the commitment made in the thesis? Does it satisfy the expectations of the reader? Did you enjoy the journey the essay took you on?
3. Form and Style (Organization) - 15 points
Each essay has an introduction with a thesis or main statement supported by two scriptures. The main statement will identify the main idea of the essay. There should be at least two paragraphs with supporting points and a summary paragraph. Does the essay make logical sense?
4. Punctuation – 5 points
Each sentence should have the right punctuation in the correct place: i.e. periods, commas, semi-colons, colons, etc.
5. Number of Words - 10 points
Words consist of three or more letters.
6. Grammar – 20 points
Each sentence should have subject and verb that agree in tense.
7. Spelling - 20 points
Correct spelling per Webster's Dictionary. Slang words and unique spellings are permitted as reference points.