



**IOTA PHI LAMBDA SORORITY, INC.
EVELYN D. WILKEY ESSAY CONTEST
AMERICAN EDUCATION WEEK OBSERVANCE**



Evelyn D. Wilkey National Youth Essay Contest

Regional Deadline: November 30th

National Deadline: December 30th

Chapters are notified each year of the chosen theme for the essay. The National Education Association theme may be used, or the National Board of Iota Phi Lambda can opt to select a theme based on relevant issues for youth as an essay topic.

The National Essay Contest is open to all middle and high school students. Each chapter may sponsor a student in each of the categories, being sure to judge each within his/her correct school category. Each student will prepare their subject based on the National American Education Week theme or a National Board-selected theme related to relevant issues.

After the local chapter's judging, send the winner from each school category to your Regional Representative.

The following items should be included with the winner's essay package:

- Essay Application
- Essay Format Requirements:
 - Length: 500 words
 - Typed, double-spaced, PDF format
 - Title Page
 - Essay Title
 - Student's Name
 - School Name & Grade Level
- Personal Picture
- Declaration and Permission Statement

Judging

To be eligible for judging, the essay package must be submitted by November 30th to your Regional Representative. The essay must be original work; give credit to quoted sources; and artificial intelligence (AI) tools may only be used for light support (like spelling or grammar).



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The Declaration and Permission Statement must be signed and submitted to constitute a complete essay package.

The Regional Representative will appoint three qualified and impartial judges (non-sorors) to evaluate the essays using the official Essay Contest Rubric. After scoring is completed, she will compile the results and submit the first-place winning regional essay(s) for both categories to the National President-Elect for national judging by December 30th.

National judging will be in the same manner: three impartial judges, who are not sorors, using the same scoring rubric.

The winners for both middle and high school will receive the following:

1st Place: \$500.00

2nd Place: \$250.00

3rd Place: \$100.00



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EVELYN D. WILKEY ESSAY CONTEST APPLICATION

NAME:

AGE:

ADDRESS:

CITY:

STATE:

ZIP CODE:

EMAIL:

SCHOOL:

GRADE:

SPONSORING CHAPTER:

REGION:

CHAPTER PRESIDENT:

ESSAY COORDINATOR:

EMAIL:

DECLARATION AND PERMISSION STATEMENT

I hereby declare that the writing of the attached essay reflects my own work, except where quoted materials are identified. I further affirm that the essay represents my original ideas and voice, and that any use of artificial intelligence (AI) tools was limited to support purposes (such as grammar, organization, or research assistance) and did not generate the primary content of the essay. I understand that essays found to be primarily generated by AI will be disqualified.

I give Iota Phi Lambda Sorority, Inc. permission to publish my essay in their publications or to use it in any other promotional manner desired. I also grant permission for my name, picture, and image to be used in connection with the publication or promotion of my essay.

CONTESTANT'S SIGNATURE

DATE

PARENT'S SIGNATURE

ESSAY COORDINATOR'S SIGNATURE