



2017 Essay Contest

The contest is open to all students in Catholic schools, parochial, private or homeschool, in grades 5 - 12. There are eight divisions:

- 5th grade school students
- 6th grade school students
- 7th/8th grade school students
- High school students
- 5th grade homeschoolers
- 6th grade homeschoolers
- 7th/8th grade homeschoolers
- High school homeschoolers



The **winner** of each 5th & 6th grade division will be awarded **\$100**.

The winner of each 7th 8th grade division will be awarded **\$150**.

The winner of each high school division will be awarded **\$200**.

Additionally, the school the student attends will receive a **\$400 gift certificate** towards the purchase of CTP textbooks.

Winners in the homeschool divisions will receive their choice of a **free CTP textbook**.

Winning essays will be published on the CTP blog.

Essay topics vary by grade (see back for topics and writing guidelines).

Deadline is midnight PST, Friday, **December 16, 2016**. Winners will be announced during Catholic Schools Week, January 29 – February 4, 2017.

See our website: <http://www.catholictextbookproject.com/>

Catholic Textbook Project, Essay Contest, P.O. Box 1497, Tehachapi, CA 93581
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ESSAY TOPICS

5th Grade Students:

Choose a Catholic historical character (**born before 1900**) from North America (Canada, U.S., Mexico). Write about his or her life and work and why he or she was important to the Church and country.

6th Grade Students:

Choose a country **other than the U.S.** and relate how the Catholic faith was brought to that country. (Who were the key people, how did the Church grow in that country, and does the Church still survive there?)

7th and 8th Grade Students:

Choose an event that was important to history. (This could be a war, a single battle in a war, an election, a plague, the coronation of a king, the passage of a law or decree, an ecumenical council, a labor strike, a revolution, the publication of a book, a birth or death, a marriage, etc. – **But the event must be an historically important event**.) Describe the event, show how Catholics or the Catholic Church was involved in this event and its outcome.

High School Students: (choose **one**)

1. 2017 is the 500th anniversary of the Protestant Reformation. Choose an important person from this event and describe his or her involvement. The character one describes may either be a Protestant or a Catholic. (Students may consult our text, *Light to the Nations I*, Chapters 17 and 18 to guide them in writing on this topic. This text, however, should not be the only source they consult.)

2. 2017 is the 100th anniversary of the Bolshevik (or Communist) Revolution in Russia. Discuss why the revolution occurred, the kind of government and society it established, and its effects on religion in Russia. (Students may consult our text, *Light to the Nations II*, Chapters 13, 15-18 to guide them in writing on this topic. This text, however, should not be the only source they consult.)

3. 2017 is the 100th anniversary of the United States' entry into World War I. What events led to the United States' declaration of war? Do you think the United States had a just cause to go to war? (Students should consult the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, paragraphs 2258-2317 to address this question.) What were the results of the U.S. entry into the war? (Students may consult our text, *Lands of Hope and Promise*, Chapters 23 and 25 to guide them in writing on this topic. This text, however, should not be the only source they consult.)

4. The Declaration of Independence declares that it is a "self-evident truth" that all men are created equal and "are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and pursuit of Happiness." Governments, says the Declaration, exist to secure these rights for the people. What did the founders of the United States mean by the terms, *liberty* and *happiness*? How does their understanding of these terms compare with what the Catholic Church has meant by these terms? (Students may consult our text, *Lands of Hope and Promise*, Chapters 8 and 9, and *Light to the Nations II*, Chapter 1, to guide them in writing on this topic. These texts, however, should not be the only sources they consult. *The Catechism of the Catholic Church*, too, would be helpful: paragraphs 1716-1724, 1730-1742, 1878-1889.)

WRITING GUIDELINES

- ✓ For the 5th & 6th grade divisions, essays should be *at least* 450 words, but no more than 1,000 words.
- ✓ For the 7/8 divisions, essays should be *at least* 600 words, but no more than 1,500 words.
- ✓ For the high school divisions, essays should be *at least* 800 words, but no more than 2,000 words.
- ✓ Essays should be typed, double spaced, 11 pt in Times New Roman font.
- ✓ If essays are e-mailed, they must be in PDF format.

An Entry Form (available on the CTP website) must be filled out and attached to each essay.

Essays may be mailed via USPO or e-mailed as a PDF. Contact Katherine at contest@catholictextbookproject.com with any of your questions.