

2017-18 Xi State Essay Contest

33rd Annual High School Essay Contest Deadline: December 8, 2017

Purpose:

To encourage, to recognize, and to reward Tennessee high school students who demonstrate outstanding writing skills.

Eligibility:

All Tennessee high school students, public and private, (grades 9 – 12) are eligible.

Guidelines for Submitting Essays:

If a school is only sponsored by one DKG chapter, the school official may submit up to four entries. When multiple chapters are represented in a school, the school may submit up to four entries per sponsoring chapter. There should be no duplication of entries. A student may only submit ONE essay to one chapter.

The student will email his/her essay to one school official (teacher, guidance counselor, instructional coach, etc.). The school official will email the essays to the contact person of the sponsoring DKG chapter by **December 8, 2017**. The contact person of the sponsoring DKG chapter will attach all of the essays from the school in one email and send it to xistate.essay@gmail.com by **December 15, 2017**.

In the case that a chapter is sending essays from more than one school, each school's essays should be sent in separate emails. In the subject line indicate your chapter name and the name of the school.

Topic:

The often-quoted American journalist Sydney J. Harris once wrote:
“Most people are mirrors, reflecting the moods and emotions of the times; few are windows, bringing light to bear on the dark corners where troubles fester. The whole purpose of education is to turn mirrors into windows.”

While you may incorporate this quotation in any way you wish, it must be the basis of your essay. You may agree or disagree with the writer's statement as you support your own opinions. You may also choose to draw on your own personal experiences or observations to illustrate your point.

Format:

The informational/explanatory essay must be 450 – 600 words in length. It must be typed or word-processed and double-spaced. Please use size 12 Times New Roman font for ease of reading.

A cover sheet must contain the following information:

- the student's name, student's address, student's phone number, and student's email address
- the student's school name and address
- the student's school official
- the name of the sponsoring DKG Chapter
- the name and email address of the contact person of the sponsoring DKG Chapter
- the name and address of the local newspaper

Scoring:

Essays will be scored using the TCAP/WA Informational/Explanatory Rubric-Grades 9 – 12 found on the Tennessee Department of Education's website www.tn.gov
 If you have any questions, please email Kim Thurman at Thurman_k@hcde.org

Prizes:

First Prize \$300 – winner will be invited to attend the awards luncheon at Xi State
 Second Prize \$200
 Third Prize \$100

Deadlines and how to enter:

Students should **email** their entry to a designated school official. The school official will email all entries to the sponsoring chapter's contact person no later than **December 8, 2017**.

Sponsoring Chapter _____
 Email of sponsoring chapter _____

The contact person from the sponsoring DKG chapter must email the entries by **December 15, 2017**, to the following gmail address:

xistate.essay@gmail.com

Confirmation:

The contact person from the sponsoring DKG chapter will receive an email confirmation once the entries are received.

Disclaimer:

All submissions become the property of Xi State of The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International. Winning submissions, as the property of Xi State, may be published in the official publication of Xi State, *Xi State News*, on the Xi State website www.xistate.org or by other electronic means. Additionally, winning submissions may be displayed at Xi State events and used in Xi State presentations.

Cover Sheet for Essay Entry

Student's Name _____

Student's Address _____

Student's Phone Number _____

Student's Email Address _____

Student's School (name and address) _____

Student's School Official _____

Name of the sponsoring DKG chapter _____

Name and Email Address of the contact person of the sponsoring DKG Chapter

Name and Address of the Local Newspaper
