



WOMAN'S CHRISTIAN TEMPERANCE UNION

ESSAY CONTEST - 2009

Purpose. To offer students an opportunity to research and write on the subjects of alcohol, tobacco, illegal drugs and abuse of prescription and over-the-counter drugs with an emphasis on total abstinence as the preferred approach to these threats to youth.

General Plan. Initial contacts should be made in the fall with teachers and administrators at various schools and institutions with potential participants including public, private and Christian school students, Bible School class students, youth groups and home school participants. Each teacher or administrator should be provided with sufficient copies of this leaflet to assist in promoting the program.

Contest Outline. Each participating organization is free to set the time and duration of the contest as long as all entries are completed and submitted no later than March 15th.

Sponsorship. The official sponsor of the contest is the Woman's Christian Temperance Union (WCTU). All rules and regulations are at the sole discretion of the WCTU which supplies the judges and determines the awards. The decision of the WCTU judges is final.

Contest Deadlines:

Local Contests – March 15th. The local contest winning entry in each of the three divisions is eligible to compete in county or district contest. In the event that no county or district contest is held, winning local contest entries are forwarded directly to the state for judging. If there is no state contest, the winning entries are automatically entered into the National Contest (see below).

State Contest – April 15th. Winning entries from each county or district contest must be submitted to reach the State Education Director by this date.

National Contest – June 1st. The winning state contest entry must be certified and forwarded to reach the National Education Director by this date. Essays which are received by the National Education Director are considered the property of the Woman's Christian Temperance Union and will not be returned. All contestants are urged to retain a photocopy of their submissions. WCTU cannot accept responsibility for materials lost in the mail.

Resources. The WCTU makes available a resource packet for each of the three divisions through **Signal Press**, the WCTU publishing house, for the nominal fee of \$3.00 plus postage & handling. Packets may be ordered by mail:

Signal Press - 1730 Chicago Ave - Evanston IL 60201-4585

State and Local Unions may order packets by e-mail, orders@signalpress.org; toll-free FAX, (866) 503-WCTU; or toll-free, (800) 755-1321.

The deadline for ordering Essay Resource Packets is March 1st. Please order by number:

E-9101	Essay Packet No. 1	(Grades 4-6 – Div I)
E-9102	Essay Packet No. 2	(Grades 7-9 – Div II)
E-9103	Essay Packet No. 3	(Grades 10-12 – Div III)

Award ribbons are also available from Signal Press:

EGS-25	Set of 3 - 1 st /2 nd /3 rd Place	\$1.50/set
EGS-50	Honorable Mention	\$0.50/ea

Website Resources. General information about the contests and resources will be posted on the WCTU website: www.wctu.org, by January 15th. Winners of the National Contest will be posted by August 31st.

Topics by Division:

Division I (200-300 words)	No Tobacco – The Healthy Choice
Division II (300-500 words)	Alcohol – Moderation or Abstinence?
Division III (600- 1,000 words)	Multiple Substance Abuse

General Essay Requirements:

1. The content of each essay must conform to the assigned topic.
2. Sources must be included as a bibliography. All direct quotations must be noted and attributed (not to exceed 20% of content).

3. Paper size is 8.5 in X 11.0 in, white, with one inch (1") margins. Use only one side, double space. Essays may be hand written, typed or computer-generated.
4. The original and two photocopies must be submitted. No copies will be returned – participants should retain a photocopy.
5. Each essay must have a cover sheet and all pages, including the cover must be attached together. The cover sheet must include the name of the participant, address, age, grade, school, city, county and the teacher's name.
6. Each essay shall include a word count which shall be placed in the upper right portion of page one.

IMPORTANT NOTE: Submissions not conforming to these rules are subject to disqualification.

Judges: There shall be three (3) judges at each level, appointed by the Education Director or contest chairperson. Whenever possible, one judge should be a member of WCTU.

Criteria:

Style and persuasiveness	30%
Factual accuracy	20%
Originality	20%
Neatness	10%
Grammar and construction	20%
(spelling, syntax, sentence structure, punctuation, etc.)	

National Awards:

	Division I	Division II	Division III
1 st Place	\$75	\$100	\$125
2 nd Place	\$65	\$ 85	\$100
3 rd Place	\$55	\$ 70	\$ 75

Honorable Mention awards may be given at the judges' discretion. Local and state awards will be determined and provided by sponsoring organizations.



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