

2023-2024 Iota Lambda Sigma Writing Contest Special Needs Student

Purpose

Sigma Chapter of the national Iota Lambda Sigma society sponsors an essay contest to encourage academic achievement. Students entering this contest are required to use their academic writing skills as they compete.

Eligibility

Entrants must be enrolled in at least one secondary career and technical education course and be a current active member of Texas SkillsUSA.

A letter from the appropriate school official on school letterhead stating that the writer is classified under the provisions of Public Law 105-17, Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, 1997, is required for participation. The letter of eligibility can simply state: "I certify that (student name) meets the eligibility requirements for the Iota Lambda Sigma Writing Contest." It must be signed by the school official. The eligibility letter should be attached to the essay.

Evaluation Criteria

The essays will be evaluated on the following criteria:

1. Content
 - Relationship to topic
 - Logically organized
 - Clarity of message
 - Expressiveness
2. Technical Quality
 - Cover sheet information
 - Spelling, Grammar, Punctuation

The essays will be judged by the awards committee appointed by Sigma Chapter. The essays will be judged on a point system based on the criteria above. Judges will have final say and entrants may not challenge or appeal.

Topic

The following is the topic that was chosen this year:

" Our time is Now ". Address the SkillsUSA National Program of Work in the area of Personal Skills.

Please visit this page for more theme details: http://www.skillsusa.org/competitions/skillsusa_championships/theme/

Application Procedures

Each entrant shall submit the following:

1. Essays are limited to 500 words in length.
2. Entrants may only submit one essay.
3. Essays must be typewritten on 8 ½ x 11 sheets.
4. It is preferred you submit essays via e-mail as Microsoft Word. The e-mail

addressnetdavid.lanman@wylieisd.net I will confirm receipt of you essay.

5. Entrants must include a cover sheet, which clearly states contestant's name, school name, full school address, school phone number, email, teacher's name, Texas SkillsUSA Chapter number and the topic for the current year contest. The cover sheet should be in a professional type format without special embellishments.
 6. Entrants may not include their name anywhere on the essay itself. 7.
- Essays must be emailed to Iota Lambda Sigma to the address above.
9. All entries become the property of ILS and will not be returned.
 10. ILS will notify the top five contestants and the winner will be announced during the opening ceremonies at the Texas SkillsUSA state contest.

Award-Winning Essays

1. ILS reserves the right to publish, reproduce, copy and display winning essays. 2. ILS will notify the top five contestants by telephone, regular mail, or email according to the information provided on their cover sheet.
3. The winning essays will be published in the ILS newsletter and forwarded to Texas SkillsUSA and TIVA for possible additional publications.

Deadline

Essays must be received by ILS no later than **March 6, 2024**. Essays submitted after March 8th will not be considered for state competition.

Essays must be sent via email in electronic format for possible future publication. The email address is david.lanman@wylieisd.net.