

High School Essay Contest (Grades 9 – 12)

The Nepalese Association in Southeast America (NASEA) and the Association of Nepalese in Midwest America (ANMA) are announcing the annual high school student essay contest open to all students of North America.

No matter who we are, no matter where we live and no matter what life we choose to lead, we are all Nepali in one way or another. Whether we are aware of it or not, we are shaped and influenced by our Nepali culture and tradition, which has evolved over thousands of years. Our roots lead us deeper to Nepal and nurture us through nutrient of Nepali culture and tradition.

The goal of this contest is to increase awareness of Nepali culture in order to preserve our culture and ultimately gain a better understanding of ourselves.

The award for the high school writing contest is personally sponsored by Mr. Naba Kadel and Mrs. Sheila Kadel of El Dorado Hills, California.

Title – Preserving Nepali culture and identity in the melting pot of North American Life

How can we preserve our Nepali culture and identity in this melting pot of a North American Life?

Tell from your experience as a child of a Nepali immigrant and exposed to both cultures, how much of a Nepali identity do you see in your lifestyle. What aspect of Nepali culture stands out over multitude of traditions in the USA and which, you are most likely to pass to your children. And which one, if any, should be modified and adjusted to American lifestyle?

(Guideline: The essay should elaborate on your experience of growing up in North America focusing on how the Nepali culture and traditions has influenced your day to day life to overall life style).

Eligibility:

1. The content is open to all North American Region high school students enrolled in 2016-2017 and to all home-school students in grade equivalent to high school (Grades 9 – 12).
2. All essays must reflect the contestant's own research and originality in writing.
3. Limit one submission per student.
4. Essay must be submitted online before deadline to all Judging Committee members.

Essay specification:

1. Written in English language.
2. Student's name, photo, email address and day-time phone number must appear at the top of the essay.

3. Document limits to 800 –1000 words. All words, except title and bibliography will be counted towards the word limits.
4. Type using MS-Word, Double-spaced and page numbered.
5. Submit in MS-Word format to Judging Committee Chair and carbon copy to all committee members.

Judging criteria:

1. Scope of research (20%)
2. Organization of content (15%)
3. Originality (20) %
4. Logic development (10 %)
5. Spelling and grammar (10%)
6. Clarity and sincerity of thoughts (10%)
7. Completeness (15%)

A panel of official essay contest committee will conduct judging. The committee's decision will be the final decision.

Timeline:

1. Essay Submission Deadline – August 15, 2016.
2. Winner Notification – August 20, 2016.
3. Winners' Recognition – During cultural program of 12th ANMA/NASeA joint convention.

The judging committee:

- Dr. Sushama Pradhan, NC, USA – Chairperson: spradhan@gmail.com
- Mr. Sushil Raj Sharma, KY, USA– Co-Chair: sushishma@gmail.com
- Dr. Lalita Joshi, Toronto, Canada – Member: lalitajoshi@hotmail.com
- Dr. Niroj Basnet, GA, USA – Member: nirojbaset@gmail.com
- Dr. Amar Karki, FL, USA – Member: amarbdrkarki@gmail.com

Awards & Recognitions:

The first-place winner will be awarded a prize of US \$300 along with an award certificate. The second and third place winners will receive \$100 and \$50 respectively, along with an award certificate. The top three essays will also be published in NASeA's upcoming *Yeti View Point* magazine. The winners will be honored during NASeA/ANMA joint convention during Labor Day Weekend 2016 in St. Louis, Missouri.

We would like to invite all interested students to participate and play vital role in making our effort successful.