

Middle School Narrative Writing Contest (Grades 6 - 8)

The Nepalese Association in Southeast America (NASEA) and the Association of Nepalese in Midwest America (ANMA) are announcing the annual student essay contest open to all middle school students living in 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 essay contest is to increase awareness of Nepali culture in order to preserve our heritage and ultimately gain a better understanding of ourselves.

Memoir Title: My experience: participating in a Nepali festival in North America

Write about your experience of participating in a Nepali festival celebrated in the North America by a Nepali organizations.

Tell about the significance of that festival and what did you learn from it? Will you keep on celebrating that festival, when you are grown up?

(Guideline: The Memoir should discuss about your experience of participating a Nepali festival hosted by Nepali organization in North America)

Eligibility:

1. The content is open to all North American Region middle school students enrolled in 2016-2017 and to all home-school students in grade equivalent to middle school (Grades 6 – 8).
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 600 - 700 words. All words, except title and bibliography will be counted towards the word limits.
4. Type using MS-Word, double-spaced, page numbered.
5. Submit essay 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 – Chair: spradhan@gmail.com
- Mr. Sushil Raj Sharma, KY, USA– Co-Chair: sushishma@gmail.com
- Mr. Krishana Shrestha, FL, USA – Member: krishnashr@gmail.com
- Mr. Jyoti Vaidya, London, ON, Canada – Member: jyotivaidya@hotmail.com
- Mr. Manoj Pradhan, NC, USA – Member: mpradhan@gmail.com

Awards & Recognitions:

First, second, and third place winners will be awarded a prize of US \$100, \$75 and \$50 respectively along with an award certificate. The top three narrative writings will also be published in NASeA's upcoming *Yeti View Point* magazine. The winners will be honored during NASeA/ANMA joint convention in 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.