

**Middle School Writing Contest**

**Submission deadline – August 19, 2021**

The Nepalese Association in Southeast America (NASeA) and the Association of Nepalese in Midwest America (ANMA) are announcing the annul middle school student writing 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.

**Title: Virtual Learning in a Worldwide Pandemic – Comparing the United States and Nepal**

The COVID-19 pandemic has affected almost all aspects of our life for the past year and a half. Following the guidance of health professionals, we spent many months under lockdown, separated from friends, family, neighbors, classmates, and many others in our social circle.

Schools were closed during this lockdown, and students across the United States transitioned to learning from home. Reflect on how this transition affected your academic life and consider the challenges that you faced during this time. The pandemic affected Nepal as well. Students in Nepal were unable to go to school during the lockdown. Research how the lockdown affected students in Nepal and compare/contrast the virtual learning environment in Nepal and the United States.

**Awards & Recognitions:**

The first, second and third place winner will be awarded a prize of US $100, $75 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 on September 5, 2021 in Orlando, Florida.

Awards for the middle school writing contest is personally sponsored by Dr. Sanjeeb Sapkota and Ms. Sabina Sapkotaof Lawrenceville, Georgia.

**Eligibility:**

1. The contest is open to all North American Region middle school students (Grades 6– 8) enrolled in 2021-2022.

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 and page numbered.

5. Submit in MS-Word format to Judging Committee Chair and carbon copy to all committee members.

**Timeline:**

1. Essay submission deadline – **Thursday,** **August 19, 2021.**

2. Winner notification – August 23, 2021.

3. Winners recognition – During cultural program of NASeA/ANMA joint convention on September 5, 2021 in Orlando, Florida.

**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.

**The judging committee**

* Dr. Rajendra Shakya, FL – Chairperson:  [rajendrashakya0@gmail.com](mailto:rajendrashakya0@gmail.com)
* Mr. Achyut Dhakal, FL- Co-Chair: [achyutdhakal@gmail.com](mailto:achyutdhakal@gmail.com)
* Mrs. Nirmala Rajbhandari, NC – Member: [nirmalarajbhandari@yahoo.com](mailto:nirmalarajbhandari@yahoo.com)
* Dr. Balika Nepal, GA- Member: balikanepal@gmail.com
* Dr. Kamal Kadel, FL- Member: [kadelk@gmail.com](mailto:kadelk@gmail.com)
* Mr. OM Dahal IN- Member: omdahal@yahoo.com