

**High School Essay 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 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.

**Title: The responsibility of the international Nepalese community in supporting our homeland during the COVID-19 Pandemic**

The United States was significantly affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, and each of us has felt its impact in our day-to-day life. Our home country of Nepal has recently experienced the ramifications this pandemic, with cases and deaths surging in the recent weeks.

Investigate and report the effects of the pandemic on Nepal. What were the precautions and measures taken to reduce spread? How have people been affected by the pandemic and the lockdown measures? As residents in the United States, we have access to resources and connections that allow us to provide aid to our home country. What were some actions taken by the Nepalese community in the United States to help our fellow countrymen in Nepal, and what further steps do we need to take?

**Awards & Recognitions:**

The first, second and third place winner will be awarded a prize of US $300, $200 and $100 respectively, along with an award certificate. The top three essays will also be published in NASeA’s upcoming *Yeti Viewpoint* magazine. The winners will be honored during NASeA/ANMA Joint Convention during Labor Day Weekend 2021 in Orlando, Florida.

The first Prize for the high school writing contest is sponsored by Dr. Ramjee and Mrs. Ambika Sharma from Georgia, the second prize by Mr. Dinesh and Mrs. Laxmi Khatiwada, from Florida and the third prize by Dr. Kailash and Mrs. Rama Ghimire from Georgia.

**Eligibility:**

1. The contest is open to all North American Region high school students (Grades 9 – 12) enrolled in 2020-2021.

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.

**Timeline:**

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

2. Winner notification – August 23, 2021.

3. Winner’s 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, USA- Chairperson: rajendrashakya0@gmail.com
* Dr. Sushama Pradhan, NC, USA – Co-Chair: [spradhan@gmail.com](mailto:spradhan@gmail.com)
* Mr. Dev Raj Sadaula, MI, USA- Member- [drsadaula@gmail.com](mailto:drsadaula@gmail.com)
* Dr. Kailash Ghimire GA, USA-Member – kc1ghimire@gmail.com
* Dr. Amar Karki, FL, USA – Member: [amarbdrkarki@gmail.com](mailto:amarbdrkarki@gmail.com)
* Dr. Shiva K. Sharma, FL, USA- Member: sk.edu46@gmail.com