



What are some of the Laws of Life students have written about?

Compassion  
Honesty  
Perseverance  
Humility  
Courage  
Forgiveness  
Generosity  
Purpose  
Wisdom  
Respect  
Integrity

2021/2022 BBB|Akron

# Laws of Life Essay Contest

The Laws of Life Essay Contest asks students in grades 9-12 to self-reflect and write about ethical principles that will help them develop leadership skills and their character. And in the process, they will learn more about themselves and what they stand for after reading the *UncommonSense*® FRAMEWORK. Plus, it gives teachers the opportunity to really get to know their students and encourage empathy and compassion.

## WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

The Laws of Life Essay contest is open to schools with students in **grades 9-12 in the following counties: Summit, Portage, Wayne, Richland, Ashland and Medina.** The students are asked to self-reflect and write about ethical principles that will help them develop leadership skills and their character.

BBB of Akron sponsors this valuable experience for Ohio's youth because we believe that to have trustworthy businesses tomorrow, we must encourage strong character in our youth today.

## IS THERE A SPECIFIC LENGTH?

Essays should be no more than three typed, double spaced pages.

## HOW ARE ESSAYS JUDGED?

Essays are judged **primarily on content**, a sample judging rubric is provided on the website.



## HOW DO I START?

A local contest is as simple as one teacher and one class - or whatever works for your community. All resources are available on BBB | Akron's website on how to start the contest. Download them free at: [go.bbb.org/akron-lolessay](https://go.bbb.org/akron-lolessay).

The Teacher's Guide has suggested lesson plans and essay prompts and suggestions on how to integrate this writing assignment within state and Common Core standards. Still have questions? Contact Kim Ickes at [kickes@akronbbb.org](mailto:kickes@akronbbb.org), or call **330-564-2483** for help on how to get started.

## WHAT DO THE WINNERS RECEIVE?

In 2021, over 200 essays were written with over \$5,850 in prizes given to 41 students, teachers and contest coordinators as well as certificates for their winning entries.

With all that is happening in our world today, we are looking forward to the 2021-2022 Laws of Life Essay contest and the opportunity to award up to \$5000 to high school students and their teachers. (Award range for \$25-\$500)

## WHAT TEACHERS SAY

"The students need to think about their morality, so it is a beneficial lesson."

~ Brittany Ford, *Language Arts*, Norwayne High School

"I love how each student is able to learn about his/herself through personal reflection. This writing gives kids the chance to grow as individuals."

~ Joel Shurance, *Cloverleaf High School*, Lodi, OH

"Always an excellent support to have students examine issues of character building & how they can impact others, with composition writing."

~ Mrs. Lynette Urankar, *Language Arts Teacher*, St. Peregrine Academy, Richfield, OH

"The students were excited to participate! We are thankful for the opportunity."

~ Ms. Kelly Miller, *Business Teacher*, Wayne County Schools Career Center, Smithville, OH

"I love that students are able to write reflectively and grow as individuals."

~ Mr. Joel Shurance, *English Department Head*, Cloverleaf High School

"Student reflection/feedback indicates they find great value in writing for someone besides their teacher. They enjoy the competition."

~ Ms. Kelly Kriner, *Coordinator, English/Language Arts*, Medina High School

"The LOL essay contest encourages students to reflect on the big picture of life and to improve their writing skills."

~ Mr. Aaron Hido, *Dean of Students*, Theodore Roosevelt High School, Kent, OH

# WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS?

- Self-reflection required to write an essay contributes to **academic success**.
- Gives schools an effective, easy-to-implement character based program based program and an authentic purpose for writing.
- Provides teachers with the opportunity to get to know their students better, **improving classroom climate** and relationships.
- Provides an opportunity for writing a “personal narrative”, a component of academic standards.
- Provides **practice for state, SAT and ACT writing tests** as well as college entrance essays.
- Builds stronger community - school ties by enabling educators and community members to work side by side on a positive and affirming activity.
- Writing about life events can be **cathartic and confidence building**.
- Unlike other essay contests, the Laws of Life Contest “winners” can be from **all ability levels** and have included **special needs or at-risk students**.



## ENTERING THE CONTEST

All entries must be submitted by email to [kickes@akronbbb.org](mailto:kickes@akronbbb.org) or postmarked to

**“Laws of Life Entries”  
222 West Market Street  
Akron, OH 44303**

## WHAT IS THE DEADLINE?

All entries must be submitted via email or postmarked by

**March 4th, 2022**

**Finalists will be notified May 2022.**