Essay 2024

Purpose: To develop written communication skills in conveying biblical ideas.

Process:
- Write an article with the content addressing the current year's LTC theme.
- Upload the entry on or before **March 11, 2024**.
- Uploaded files must be .pdf or .doc(x). Do not upload Google Docs.
- Submit your entry as instructed on the NTLTC Submission Event page located at ntltc.org.

Rules:
1. The essay length shall be 250 to 500 words.
2. The essay shall be typewritten and double spaced. For students sixth grade or younger, handwritten work is admissible. It must be, in the minds of judges, legible and neatly presented.
3. The essay shall start with the title of the essay followed by the text.
4. Copies of an oratory speech will not be accepted as an essay.

Awards:
Ratings and awards of gold, silver, bronze, or honorable mention will be given according to the judging criteria listed.

Judging Criteria:
- **Theme** - The essay will be rated on the use of the assigned LTC theme.
- **Creativity** - The essay will be rated on the blend of your creativity with the theme, the ability to hold reader's interest, and relevance to today.
- **Spelling** - The essay will be rated on the proper use of the English language, word usage, and spelling.
- **Grammar** - The essay will be rated on its grammar and punctuation.
- **Readability** - The essay will be rated on readability. This concerns the correct use of paragraphs, pagination, the absence of typographical errors, and structure as an essay.
- **Thesis Statement** - The current year's LTC theme must be clearly introduced in the beginning of the paper with the thesis statement. **A thesis statement declares what you believe and what you intend to prove.** The thesis statement is typically located at the end of your opening paragraph.
- **Supporting Points** - The main idea (thesis) should be supported by three to five points in the body of the article.
- **Conclusion** - The essay should be closed by a conclusion that restates your thesis and is sustained by the previous material.
- **Use of Scripture** – The essay will be rated on how well scripture is used to support the thesis, including the accurate quotation and use of biblical passages.

Note: *The criteria of Theme, Thesis Statement, Supporting Points, Conclusion, and Use of Scripture will be judged with greater merit and will have a greater effect on the award.*

Use of Materials Submitted to NTLTC
Ownership of work submitted to NTLTC as a part of NTLTC events remains the property of the submitter. The participant authorizes use of the entry by the NTLTC Board of Directors in any way the Board may deem appropriate. This may include but is not limited to promotion, fund-raising, or training for the purpose of Christian leadership training of youth.