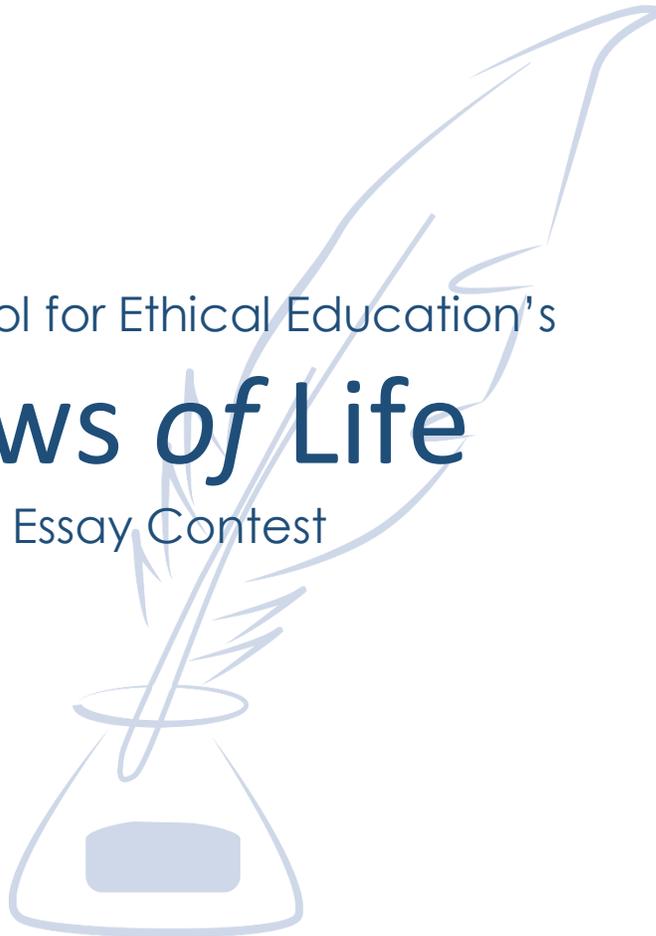


The School for Ethical Education's

Laws of Life

Essay Contest



Judges' Scoring Guide

Contest Goals

The Laws of Life Essay Program is a character education essay writing contest that includes students reflecting, writing and discussing their laws of life, or ethical values, that help people live productive and meaningful lives.

The contest is available to all Connecticut schools and students grades 5-12. All submissions should be positive, innovative and original work of students to promote the importance of laws of life.

The following Scoring Rubric and Decimal Scoring Table defines the three weighted scoring criteria for evaluating essays. The Decimal Scoring Table offers scoring suggestions as defined by an evaluative judging statement that is aligned with a percentage value.

Scoring Rubric

Scoring Categories	Content	Presentation	Grammar & Spelling
Category Weight	Score 1 – 10	Score 1 – 8	Score 1 – 6
Category Description	<p>The essay is positive and life-affirming. The author clearly articulates one or more <i>laws of life</i> (ethical values such as but not limited to—integrity, caring, responsibility, perseverance, fairness and respect) that would make the world a better place if everyone practiced it. Reasonable people would agree that the author's <i>laws of life</i> are important. The essay makes one both think and feel. The essay captures a <i>law of life</i> in a unique and special way.</p>	<p>The essay is easy to read and is clearly written. The reader can tell exactly what the author was trying to communicate. The ideas and paragraphs flow smoothly in the essay.</p>	<p>The essay has been edited for grammar and spelling.</p>

Decimal Scoring

Scoring Categories		Content	Presentation	Grammar & Spelling
Category Weight		Score 1 – 10	Score 1 – 8	Score 1 – 6
Evaluative Judgment	Percentage	Weighted Scores		
Exceptional	100	10	8	6
Excellent	95	9.5	7.6	5.7
Very Good	90	9.0	7.2	5.4
Good	85	8.5	6.8	5.1
Above Average	80	8.0	6.4	4.8
Average	75	7.5	6	4.5
Below Average	70	7	5.6	4.2
Needs Improvement	65	6.5	5.2	3.9
Missing Objective	60	6.0	4.8	3.6

We encourage the use of a decimal scoring system as described in this table and narrative example that follows. This table only provides scores for every 5 percentile points. Judges are welcome to determine and calculate weighted scores for any percentage.

If an essay's content was "**Excellent**" (95% x 10), it would have a "Content" score of **9.5**.

If an essay's presentation was "**Very Good**" (90% x 8) it would earn a score of **7.2**.

If an essay's grammar and spelling was "**Good**" (85% x 6) it would earn a score of **5.1**.

Entering and summing the three scores on a Contest Scoring Form would result in a total essay score: 9.5 (Content)+ 7.2 (Presentation) + 5.1 (G&S) = 21.8. This would be a competitive score in a typical Laws of Life contest year.

Judges in our Connecticut Laws of Life Contest enter their scores into an online Google Sheet or, alternatively, an Excel Spreadsheet, which can be forwarded back to SEE.

A blank scoring form is available as a link on the contest website.

Any Questions?

Please email

SEECordinator@ethicsed.org

Or call

(203) 783 – 4436

Thank you for supporting
ethics into action!

