

High School Essay Contest (Grades 9 – 12)

The Nepalese Association in Southeast America (NASEA) and the Association of Nepalese in Midwest America (ANMA) are announcing the annual 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 – Rebuilding the Lost Heritage

If you were a policy-maker how would you plan on rebuilding historic monuments destroyed and damaged by recent massive earthquake in Nepal?

What will be your short-term priority and your long-term agenda? Since thousands of historical monuments have been affected by the earthquake, how would you prioritize where to begin the recovery process? What kind of infrastructure would you reinstate?

(Guideline: The essay should incorporate a plan for rebuilding both completely destroyed and extensively damaged monuments in Nepal. The essay should also discuss how Nepal can hand down its cultural heritage to future generations).

Eligibility:

1. The content is open to all North American Region high school students enrolled in 2015-2016 and to all home-school students in grade equivalent to high school (Grades 9 – 12).
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.

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.

Timeline:

1. Essay Submission Deadline – August 10, 2015.
2. Winner Notification – August 18, 2015.
3. Recognition of Winners – September 5, 2015 (during cultural program of ANMA/NASeA annual joint convention).

The judging committee:

- Dr. Sushama Pradhan, NC, USA – Chairperson: spradhan@gmail.com
- Dr. Lalita Joshi, Toronto, Canada – Co-Chair: lalitajoshi@hotmail.com
- Dr. Ramjee Sharma, GA, USA – Member: Ramjee.sharma@gmail.com
- Dr. Kamal Mani Baral, ND, USA – Member: kamalmanibaral@gmail.com
- Ms. Srijana Sharma, GA, USA – Member: srijana98@gmail.com

Awards & Recognitions:

The first-place winner will be awarded a prize of US \$300 along with an award certificate. The second and third place winners will receive \$100 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 2015 in Greensboro/High Point, North Carolina.

We would like to invite all interested students to participate and play vital role in making our effort successful.