

Middle School Narrative Writing Contest (Grades 6 - 8)

The Nepalese Association in Southeast America (NASeA) and the Association of Nepalese in Midwest America (ANMA) are announcing the annual student essay contest open to all middle school students living in 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 essay contest is to increase awareness of Nepali culture in order to preserve our heritage and ultimately gain a better understanding of ourselves.

The middle school writing contest is personally sponsored by Dr. Sanjeeb Sapkota and Ms. Sabina Sapkota of Lawrenceville, Georgia.

Memoir Title: Devastated by the Earthquake

Discuss your memories regarding any place in Nepal that has been damaged by the recent earthquake. If you have not personally visited the location of choice, you may write from the perspective of someone who has, such as your parents.

Also discuss the state of the location after the earthquake. For example, the earthquake has given Nepal a chance to rebuild for the better. Therefore, what (if any) did you not like about the location prior to the earthquake and how can this concern be addressed during the reconstruction?

(Guideline: The essay should discuss a physical location – any city, village or an area such as Durbar Square, etc.)

Eligibility:

1. The content is open to all North American Region middle school students enrolled in 2015-2016 and to all home-school students in grade equivalent to middle school (Grades 6 – 8).
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 600 - 700 words. All words, except title and bibliography will be counted towards the word limits.
4. Type using MS-Word, double-spaced, page numbered.
5. Submit essay 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 – Chair: spradhan@gmail.com
- Mr. Krishana Shrestha, FL, USA – Co-Chair: krishnashr@gmail.com
- Dr. Archana Lamichane, NC, USA – Member: archudipu@gmail.com
- Mr. Jyoti Vaidya, London, ON, Canada – Member: jyotivaidya@hotmail.com
- Ms. Christy Marhatta, NC, USA – Member: marhattapc@gmail.com

Awards & Recognitions:

First, second, and third place winners will be awarded a prize of US \$100, \$75 and \$50 respectively along with an award certificate. The top three narrative writings will also be published in NASeA's upcoming *Yeti View Point* magazine. The winners will be honored during NASeA/ANMA joint convention in Labor Day Weekend 2015 in Greensboro/High Point, NC.

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