

STEP 1: Speak with the school's Principal, Language Arts Director and/or interested Language Arts Teacher. The best time to meet with your local school is January to March as they plan the upcoming school year curriculum.

Share the School Fact Sheet describing benefits for students and educators, highlighting:

- The contest is a free writing program that meets core curriculum standards and mandated state character education requirement.
- Schools can and do incorporate the Contest directly into their Language Arts curriculum quickly and easily thanks to sample lesson plans and other resources made available to schools once they register.
 - Contest manual with sample lesson plans, best writing practices & teacher training tips.
 - Free Teacher workshop luncheon with CE credit in September
 - Free contests materials: school posters and student stickers/bookmarks to start off the school year.
- The Contest rewards students of all achievement levels. The essays are judged primarily on content and the essence of the story, not solely grammar.
- The contest is most successful when the whole school participates!
- Student prize money at grade, school and state level for each qualifying school, based on school size. Teacher honoraria and awards
- Winning students, their parents and teachers invited to a Student Recognition event hosted by your Rotary Club - (if applicable).

STEP 2: Once a school is ready to participate:

- They identify someone to serve as School Contest Chair to facilitate the implementation and smooth operation of the contest, training their peers on how to implement the contest in their classroom.
- To ensure they receive the contest manual and training; register via the Teacher page at Laws of Life website: GeorgiaLawsofLife.org.
- Once a school registers, they will receive the Contest Manual. School materials are mailed in August.

STEP 3: Sign up with your school for the Teacher & Rotarian Workshop Luncheon held in September.

- Excellent opportunity to hear from Student Winners, share ideas with teachers and kick-off the contest.
- School Contest Chairs can pick up School Posters and Student Stickers/Bookmarks
- Teachers that participate in the Workshop Luncheon are eligible for CE credit.
- A \$60 reimbursement is available for substitute teachers (2 teachers from each registered school & club sponsor are invited for free)

STEP 4: Celebrate Student Winners! Plan a Student Recognition Event with your School Partner

- One of the most rewarding parts of the contest is celebrating your school winners!
- The sky's the limit.
- Host a Student Recognition Event at a Club Meeting, plan a special event or attend School based events to celebrate winners.
- Invite winning students, their parents/guardians, teachers, and School Administrators.
- Present contest recognition items to students (customizable certificates provided by Laws of Life).
- Plan early, before exams start and school ends. Winners are announced the first week of April.





Laws of Life



THE GEORGIA ROTARY CLUBS LAWS OF LIFE ESSAY CONTEST

SCHOOL INFORMATION

“TO GIVE IS BETTER THAN TO RECEIVE.” “BLOOM WHERE YOU ARE PLANTED.” “NEVER, EVER GIVE UP.”







The Georgia Laws of Life Essay Contest is a character education and creative writing program for high school students. Free to schools, the contest challenges students to reflect on and express their life experiences and core values. This offers students a greater understanding of themselves and others in turn building a strong foundation for academic and emotional growth. Students are asked to select a saying or “law of life” and share how the maxim applies to their everyday lives.

I like that it is linked to Georgia Standards and allows students to write from their own perspectives about their own experiences, thoughts, and ideals. It allows us to get to know the students on a more relatable level while also teaching the very important writing skills they all need. Susan Passmore, Colquitt County High School

All my teachers are amazed at how the assignment to write a laws of life essay opens up a dialogue with their students. It is the best way to earn trust and create a classroom environment. We always do it at the beginning of the school year. Melissa Giggey, West Hall High School

In an average year, more than 40,000 Georgia students write a Laws of Life essay, and over \$20,000 is awarded to students and teachers.

Contest Timeline

September	Aug - Feb	February	March	April	April - May
Teacher & Rotarian Workshop Luncheon	Students Write Essays Based on Your Curriculum & Schedule	Schools Submit 8 - 12 Essays per Grade for Judging by 2nd Monday	School Winners Announced	State Winners Announced	Essayists, Teachers & Families Invited to Recognition Event with Rotary Club Partner Award Checks Issued
					

Register your school to participate:
georgialawsoflife.org/how-to-participate/

Questions? Contact Executive Director,
Carol Gray Walker: 404-590-8039
Carol@georgialawsoflife.org



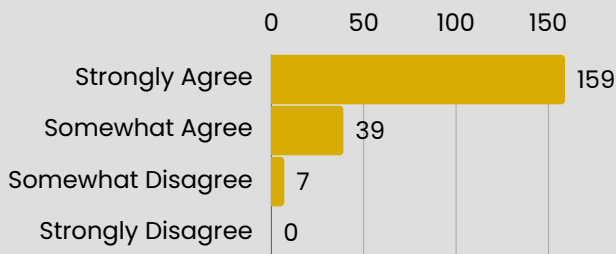
School Awards
\$50 - Grade Winner \$100 - School Winner

Statewide Student Awards
\$1,500 - State Winner \$750 - 1st runner-up
\$500 - 2nd runner-up
\$300 - 3rd runner-up \$200 - 4th runner-up
\$100 - 5th runner-up

\$1,000 - Founder's Award & Character in Action Award Winners*

Teacher Honoraria & Awards
\$100 - Lead Teacher at schools with +25% participation
\$100 - English Teachers of State Winner and both named awards

Award eligibility is based upon school size and student participation level.



97% of students polled agree that writing their Laws of Life essay made them more aware of the importance of personal values.

Resources



[Student Winners and Teacher Experiences playlists](#)



[2022-23 Student Essay Collection](#)

The Georgia Rotary Clubs Laws of Life Essay Contest is the sole program of the Georgia Rotary Districts Character Education Program (GRDCEP), a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt nonprofit organized exclusively for charitable and educational purposes.

Benefits

Students ✓

- Encourages young people to discover for themselves the core values, principles and ideals important to their lives
- Focuses on the thought processes and self-awareness of the writer, not solely grammatical ability
- Engages the whole school...winners include straight-A students, average kids and struggling kids. It's about personal reflection on ethics and character values.
- Cash prizes are awarded at grade, school and state levels to hundreds of student writers

Educators ✓

- Flexible timeline and lesson plans which meet the Georgia Standards of Excellence
- Easily implemented state-mandated character education program
- Free of charge to schools through partnerships with local Rotary Clubs and other sponsors
- Cash honorariums for educators
- All necessary materials are provided - Contest Manual, teacher tips, and student hand-outs
- Teacher's Workshop Luncheon with inspiring speakers, CE credit, and good food

The Contest assignment meets the Georgia Character Education requirement and fits easily into the English Language Arts Writing Standards for grades 9 through 12. Some of these standards include:

- W1: Write arguments to support claims in an analysis of substantive evidence.
- W2: Write informative/explanatory texts to examine and convey complex ideas, concepts, and information clearly and accurately through the effective selection, organization, and analysis of content.
- W3: Write narratives to develop real or imagined experiences or events using effective technique, well-chosen details, and well-structured event sequences.
- SL1: Initiate and participate effectively in a range of collaborative discussions (one-on-one, in groups, and teacher-led) with diverse partners, topics, texts, and issues, building on others' ideas and expressing their own clearly and persuasively.

