



CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF GRAND ISLAND

2708 Old Fair Road | Grand Island, NE 68803 | Phone (308)382-6565

2026 PRO-LIFE ESSAY CONTEST

General Diocesan Guidelines

Who Is Eligible? Students Grades 7-11

Submission Dates: January 22 – March 25, 2026

Grades: 7-11th

Being 'Pro-life' encompasses more than just standing against the abortion of babies. One of the most controversial pro-life subjects today is the use of IVF, along with other instances of reproductive technology. Tell what the church's teaching is on the use of IVF and why it is immoral; include statistics, informational data, your personal thoughts, and testimonies on the subject.

RULES AND SUBMISSION DIRECTIONS:

1. Your entry should be typed, **300-400 words** in length, and only on the front side.
2. Your entry should include a title and be broken into paragraphs. Good composition and organization increase persuasive power.
3. Print, complete, and attach the identification form found at the bottom of this page *to the back* of your essay. Do *not* include your name on the *front* of your essay, as each essay will be photocopied and given to the judges to be judged anonymously.
4. Plagiarism and use of AI will disqualify an entry. All quotations and usage of facts must be cited.
5. Any violation of the rules and submission directions shall disqualify an entry.

JUDGING WILL BE BASED ON THE FOLLOWING CRITERIA:

1. Understanding the particular pro-life message.
2. Clarity and persuasiveness in communicating the message.
3. Creative and specific ideas.
4. Grammar, spelling, and organization.

DIOCESAN PRIZES FOR EACH GRADE LEVEL:

\$40 First prize and award certificate

\$30 Second prize and award certificate

\$20 Third prize and award certificate

Winners will be notified by email and/or mail. All winning entries will be posted on the Diocesan webpage, and we will be asking the *1st place winning 11th-grade applicant to read their entry and send a video (cell phone video is fine)* to use on the Diocesan webpage and other Social media platforms. The video may be emailed to frontdesk@gidiocese.org. Deadline for receipt of video TBA.

Teacher Instructions: Submit up to 3 entries from your classroom or from each section of a particular class.

Print legibly and attach the form below to the back of the entry

Student's Name: _____ **Grade:** _____

School or Parish: _____ **Town:** _____

Teacher's Name: _____

Teacher's Phone: _____ **Teacher's Email:** _____

Parent/Guardian Name: _____

Phone: _____ **Email:** _____

Address: _____ **Town:** _____ **Zip:** _____