



Maryland Right to Life and National Right to Life Student Essay Contest 2026

1. Essays should answer this question: *Why are you pro-life?*
2. Essays should be **submitted electronically** no later than **January 4, 2026** to Write2MakeADifference@gmail.com. A contestant may submit only one essay.
3. Essays must be double-spaced **Word documents** or **PDFs** (that you submit by attaching the document to an email), pages must be numbered, and font size cannot be smaller than 12. The Subject line of the email must say “essay contest”, and the body of the email should have the student-contestant’s name and contact information. Ideally, the file name of the document should contain the contestant’s name also.
4. Essays must be 300 – 500 words in length.
5. Essays must be typed and in font no smaller than 12-point.
6. Use a **cover sheet** that includes the student-contestant’s full name, full mailing address, phone number, grade level, date of birth, name(s) of parent(s), name of school, and word count.
7. By submitting an entry, the student-contestant and parent(s) agree:
A. to allow Maryland Right to Life and National Right to Life to reprint the essay, and
B. that the essay is original (including no use of ChatGPT or any other AI sources) and not copyrighted.
8. Cite any and all sources used.
9. Do *not* include/embed artwork or pictures.

Essays will be judged on originality, content, and accuracy. There are two categories:

Junior Essay Contest: Grades 7 – 9

Senior Essay Contest: Grades 10 – 12.

Make sure to indicate the student-contestant’s grade level.

In *each* of the two categories, there will be a cash prize of **\$250** for first place.

The first place essay from both categories in the MDRTL contest will be forwarded to the National Right to Life contest with an opportunity to win an additional cash prize. NRLC will judge essays from both categories submitted by students from around the nation. Ranking by MDRTL judges is independent of ranking by NRLC judges.

Contact Bill Howard at Write2MakeADifference@gmail.com for more information.