

Tennessee State Organization  
of the  
Delta Kappa Gamma Society International  
2020-2021 Essay Contest

36<sup>th</sup> Annual Essay Contest:  
High School/Middle School

Deadline: February 26, 2021

**Purpose:**

To encourage, to recognize, and to reward Tennessee middle school and high school students who demonstrate outstanding writing skills.

**Eligibility:**

All Tennessee middle school and high school students, public and private, (grades 6 – 12) are eligible.

**Guidelines for Submitting Essays:**

- If a school is only sponsored by one DKG chapter, the school official may submit **up to four** entries.
- When multiple chapters are represented in a school, the school may submit **up to four** entries per sponsoring chapter.
- There should be no duplication of entries. A student may only submit ONE essay to one chapter.
- In the case that a chapter is sending essays from more than one school, each school's essays should be sent in **separate emails**. In the subject line indicate your **chapter name and the name of the school**.

**Topic:**

*Is internet access a necessity of modern life, like running water or electricity, or is it a bonus, something that is nice to have but not a requirement?*

**Format:**

- Students will decide on a position for their argument essay.
- They will support their position with textual evidence and cite their evidence.
- Each essay must be 450 – 600 words in length.
- It must be typed, double-spaced, size 12 Arial font, and **converted to a pdf**, including the separate cover page that has also been **converted to a pdf**.
- Student's name **can only appear** on the cover sheet.
- Essay Title needs to be a **header** for the essay page(s).
- See page 4 of this document for the format for the cover page.
- No images will be accepted.
- Formal writing rules apply. See TN ELA standard W.TTP.1.
- That includes no use of first and second person pronouns.
- The state rubrics will be rigorously applied. Rubrics used are the TNReady Grades 6-8 Argument Rubric and the TN Ready Grades 9-12 Argument Rubric.

**Please note:**

- Each essay needs to be submitted in **two parts**:
  - The **cover sheet** formatted as outlined on page 4 of this document, and
  - The **essay**, with the title of the essay as the **ONLY** information appearing on the actual essay pages in a header with page numbers as needed.

**Not following these formatting guidelines and this protocol will result in the entrant being disqualified.**

**Scoring:**

Essays will be scored using the rubrics noted above. If you have any questions, please email Tammy Jones at [TammyJones@TLJConsultingGroup.com](mailto:TammyJones@TLJConsultingGroup.com).

**Prizes: one set each for middle school & high school contest**

First Prize \$250 – winner will be invited to attend the awards luncheon at the Tennessee State Convention

Second Prize \$125

Third Prize \$75

**Deadlines and how to enter:**

- The student will submit his/her essay, in two parts as described earlier, to one school official (teacher, guidance counselor, instructional coach, etc.) so they have them **before February 26, 2021**.
- The school official will email the cover sheets and the essays to the contact person of the sponsoring DKG chapter before or on **February 26, 2021**.
- The contact person of the sponsoring DKG chapter will attach all of the cover sheets and the essays from the high school in one email and all the cover sheets and essays from the middle school in another email and send it to [TammyJones@TLJConsultingGroup.com](mailto:TammyJones@TLJConsultingGroup.com) by **February 26, 2021**.

**Confirmation:**

The contact person from the sponsoring DKG chapter will receive an email confirmation once the entries are received.

**Disclaimer:**

All submissions become the property of the Tennessee State Organization of The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International. Winning submissions, as the property of Xi State, may be published in the official publication of Tennessee State, *Tennessee State News*, on the Tennessee State website [www.xistate.org](http://www.xistate.org) or by other electronic means. Additionally, winning submissions may be displayed at Tennessee State events and used in Tennessee State presentations.

**Cover Sheet Format/Information for Essay Entry**

**Must be typed**

**Essay Title**

Student's Name:

Student's Mailing Address:

Student's Phone Number:

Student's Email Address:

Student's School (name and address):

Student's School official contact person and email address:

Name of the sponsoring DKG chapter:

Name and Email Address of the contact person of the sponsoring DKG  
Chapter:

Name and Email Address of the Local Newspaper: