



CCLE 2023 ESSAY CONTEST

Open to students who attend a CCLE accredited school or whose parent is a CCLE member

Deadline for submission: **April 15, 2023**

Theme for 2023: Learning in the Two Kingdoms

Five hundred years ago, in 1523, Luther wrote, “Temporal Authority: To What Extent It Can Be Obeyed” in which he articulated the two-kingdoms doctrine. Luther taught that God is ruling two kingdoms: one spiritual, the other earthly. Scripture reveals that the Kingdom of God is not of this world. But Scripture also affirms creation and human society as God's realm, a kingdom in which He is exercising his providential care, for Christians and non-Christians alike. Every Christian is a subject of both of these two kingdoms, which God rules in two different ways. In His temporal kingdom God works by means of the Law, vocations in the family and the state, and His created order. In His eternal kingdom God works through the Gospel of Jesus Christ in Word and Sacrament, the estate of the church, and the ministry of the Holy Spirit.

When considering the Christian's role in the world, the Lutheran theology of the two kingdoms is indispensable. The question of how to relate church and state is an everpressing one for every Christian. Some want the church to exercise political authority and some want the state to exercise spiritual authority. But both alternatives confuse Law and Gospel and distort God's design for both the church and the state.

Dialectic Prompt: How is Christianity different from politics, even though both are important?

Rhetoric Prompt: What is the problem with the church being in charge of earthly governments? What is the problem with earthly governments being in charge of the church?

EVALUATION CRITERIA: SEE SCALES

Punctuation, Capitalization, Spelling
Grammar, Sentences
Following Directions
Reflecting Dialectic or Rhetorical Approach
Structure in Introduction, Body, & Conclusion
Paragraph Development
Vocabulary Choice & Level
Author's Voice
Complexity of Thoughts, Insights
Lutheran Theological Understanding
Response to Prompt
Length: 700 to 1,250 words

CONSIDERATIONS/DIRECTIONS

1. The teacher or parent may help to explain or clarify the prompt, directions, and evaluation scale, but it must be entirely the student's work and thought; no teacher or parent revisions are permitted on any drafts. If the prompt is used as an in-class assignment, it must be solely the student's work.
2. The essay must be word-processed. All text should be on one side of paper only—it must be readable when scanned. Formatting must be double-spaced, font size 12, Arial, New Times Roman, or Helvetica font, black only.
3. A student may participate in only one essay category for the contest; the school cannot submit essays in both categories by one student.

PROCESS

1. For schools: The classroom teacher reads all essays from her classroom, identifying the strongest two essays in each category (dialectic, rhetoric). The school then selects the top two essays in each category to represent the school. The school completes the essay submission page including a list of the top two essays by category with students' names and category (page 3). The student's name, category (dialectic, rhetoric), and word count should be only on a cover page of the essay pdf; the student's name or school should NOT appear on the essay pages, only the essay title. THIS CHANGE IN SUBMISSION ENSURES ANONYMOUS JUDGING.

Each school may submit two essays per category (dialectic/rhetoric); the total submission for a school is four essays by four different students.

For home school families: Please complete the essay submission page including the student's name and category (dialectic or rhetoric) and the parent's name as teacher (attached). The student's name, category, and word count should be only on a cover page. The student's name should NOT appear on the essay pages; only the essay title. THIS CHANGE IN SUBMISSION ENSURES ANONYMOUS JUDGING.

2. The classroom/home school teacher scans each essay submission as an electronic pdf. The entry must be clearly legible in the pdf to be evaluated. Please identify the electronic pdf submissions according to the following pattern:

Essay, Dialectic, last name, first name, school, town

Essay, Dialectic, Chemnitz, Martin, Brandenburg Lutheran School, Brandenburg

Essay, Rhetoric, last name, first name, school, town

Essay, Rhetoric, Cranach, Lucas, Wittenberg Lutheran School, Wittenberg

The classroom/home school teacher uploads the submissions to a file on google drive and shares permission to view and edit with executive.director@cclle.org and webmaster@cclle.org.

4. The teacher then emails the shareable link and submission form to executive.director@cclle.org.

The Essay Submission Page and the essays scanned and submitted electronically must be sent by midnight (central time) of the contest deadline, April 15, 2023. Submissions will be acknowledged upon receipt of scanned materials. Please do not delete the file from your storage until after June 1, 2023.

5. The Essay Readers will evaluate all submissions using the CCLE Dialectic and Rhetoric Essay Scales.

6. All submissions may be published in CCLE materials with author attribution.

PRIZES

1. Winners will be announced by June 1, 2023. Please do not delete the entry from your storage until after June 1.

3. Prizes consist of the following:

Grand Prize: \$200 for the scholar and \$50 for the writing teacher

Runner-Up: \$100 for the scholar and \$50 for the writing teacher

ESSAY SUBMISSION PAGE
Submit to executive.director@ccele.org

Teacher or School: Please type or print clearly all names (complete names: first and last) and information.

School name/Home school family:

Contact:

School address:

Contact email address:

Mailing address:

Please list the essay entries following this pattern:

Essay, Dialectic, last name, first name, school, town

Essay, Dialectic, Chemnitz, Martin, Brandenburg Lutheran School, Brandenburg

Essay, Rhetoric, last name, first name, school, town

Essay, Rhetoric, Cranach, Lucas, Wittenberg Lutheran School, Wittenberg

Essay PDF File Name