

## **2011-2012 National LAOH Irish History Writing Contest Information**

**Introduction:** Each year the Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians, Inc. sponsors a National Irish History Writing Contest for students in Grades 6 through 12 in those states where the Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians, Inc. have established Divisions. The contest is comprised of two levels: LEVEL 1 is for students in Grades 6, 7, or 8 and LEVEL 2 is for students in Grades 9, 10, 11, or 12. The theme for each contest level is specified each year.

**Eligibility:** Students who are enrolled in parochial, private, or public schools or who are home-schooled are eligible to participate in the Irish History Writing Contest. Each student entering the 2011-2012 National LAOH Irish History Writing Contest should be given a copy of the Student Information, Contest Rules, and Guidelines Sheet as well as a copy of the 2011-2012 National LAOH Irish History Writing Contest Judging Criteria.

### **2011-2012 National LOAH Irish History Writing Contest Themes:**

<b>LEVEL 1</b>	<b>Grades 6-7-8</b>	<b>“The Story of Annie Moore – Irish Immigration to America”</b>
<b>LEVEL 2</b>	<b>Grades 9-10-11-12</b>	<b>“The Irish and the Building of the American Infrastructure”</b>

### **2011-2012 National LAOH Irish History Writing Contest Information:**

1. Each student wishing to enter the Irish History Writing Contest is to follow the LAOH National Irish History Writing Contest information, rules, and guidelines established each year. Submitted student work will be judged at either LEVEL 1 (Grades 6, 7, 8) or at LEVEL 2 (Grades 9, 10, 11, 12) using the established LAOH National Irish History Writing Contest Information, Contest Rules, Guidelines, and Judging Criteria.
2. Student papers are first submitted to the LAOH Division Historian. Division winners are then forwarded to the County Board Historian in those states where County Boards exist. The County Board Historian then forwards County Board winners to the State Historian. If the state does not recognize the County Board structure, the Division Historian then forwards the Division winners directly to the State Historian. State Historians are to forward State winners to the National Historian.
3. All student papers must adhere to the specified LAOH National Irish History Writing Contest Information, Contest rules, and Guidelines in order to be forwarded to the next level. Although some schools and states may suggest or require students to use specific writing styles and frameworks, all students interested in participating in the LAOH National Irish History Writing Contest must use the published LAOH National Irish History Writing Contest Information, Contest Rules, Guidelines, and Judging Criteria.
4. Each Division, County Board if applicable, and State Board is to establish its own award levels for both LEVEL 1 and LEVEL 2 of the LAOH National Irish History Writing Contest. The Divisions, County Boards if applicable and State Boards are encouraged establish their own criteria to determine whether to award a first, second, and third place award for LEVEL 1 and LEVEL 2. It is optional at the Division, County Board if applicable, and State Board Level whether or not to establish a maximum of two (2) honorable mention awards.
5. The LAOH Irish Historian at each Level, utilizing a committee of qualified judges (persons with English and History backgrounds), will evaluate all LEVEL 1 and LEVEL 2 submitted student works using the LAOH National Irish History Writing Contest Information, Contest Rules, Guidelines, and Judging Criteria established each year and shall determine the winners at the specific level for the 2011-2012 LAOH National Irish History Writing Contest.

**2011-2012 National LAOH Irish History Writing Contest Timelines:**

- Contest Opens September 2011
- Division Level Submissions are to be received by January 20, 2012
- County Level Submissions are to be received by February 17, 2012
- State Level Submissions are to be received by March 23, 2012
- National Level Submissions are to be postmarked by April 20, 2012

**2011-2012 National LAOH Irish History Writing Contest National Awards:**

<b>National Award</b>	<b>LEVEL 1</b>	<b>LEVEL 2</b>
First Place	\$500	\$1,000
Second Place	\$250	\$500
Third Place	\$125	\$250
Honorable Mention	\$50	\$100
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**2011-2012 National LAOH Irish History Writing Contest Student Information, Contest Rules, and**

**Guidelines:** Students are expected to follow the *MLA Style Handbook* as a guide as they prepare their paper. Contest rules for students are provided on a separate sheet titled 2011-2012 National LAOH Irish History Writing Contest Student Information, Contest Rules, and Guidelines Sheet.

**2011-2012 National LAOH Irish History Writing Contest Judging Criteria:** Each paper is to be evaluated using the Judging Criteria established by the National Irish Historian. A separate Judging Criteria Sheet is provided with this information. The questions in each category on the Judging Criteria Sheet are suggested questions and are not limiting criteria for the judges, but rather they are provided to assist the judges with minimum criteria to use when evaluating each student paper. The judges should also review the 2011-2012 National LAOH Student Information, Contest Rules, and Guideline Sheet prior to evaluating each student paper.

The student's title page is to be removed and a number is to be given to the paper prior to the paper being given to the judges so that the judges are able to evaluate each paper without prejudice. Each paper will be evaluated in the following categories: (1) Comprehension with a point value of 1-30 points, (2) Organization with a point value of 1-20 points, (3) Conclusion with a point value of 1-15 points, (4) Creativity with a point value of 1-20 points, and (5) Writing with a point value of 1-15 points. A total of 100 points is available in the scoring procedure. At each level, the Irish Historian shall determine the recommended score to be achieved to move the student paper to the next level.

No markings should appear on the student work as it is being evaluated at each level. If a student paper is advanced to the next level with any markings, edits, scores, etc., it will be disqualified at the next level. A 2011-2012 National LAOH Irish History Writing Contest Judge's Summary Sheet is also provided to assist each judge in recording student scores.

**Further Information Available:**

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