

2011-2012 National LAOH Irish History Writing Contest Student Information, Contest Rules, and Guidelines Sheet

Eligibility & Information: Students in grades 6 through 12 enrolled in parochial, private, or public schools or who are home-schooled are eligible to participate in the 2011-2012 National LAOH Irish History Writing Contest sponsored by the Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians, Inc. The National LAOH Irish History Writing 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.

Each year a specific theme is specified for the Irish History Writing Contest LEVEL 1 and LEVEL 2. Each year specific information, rules, and guidelines are established for the National LAOH Irish History Writing Contest. The information, rules, and guidelines specified for this National LAOH Irish History Writing Contest may differ from those rules and guidelines that specific schools and/or states require for student writing contests.

All student papers submitted to participate in the 2011-2012 National LAOH Irish History Writing Contest must adhere to the specific information, rules, and guidelines provided by the National LAOH Irish History Writing Contest.

2011-2012 National LAOH Irish History Writing Contest Themes:

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

2011-2012 National LAOH Irish History Writing Contest Timelines:

- Contest Opens September 2010
- Papers are to be submitted to the local Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians, Inc. Division Irish Historian by January 20, 2012.

2011-2012 National LAOH Irish History Writing Contest Rules and Guidelines:

Paper Length: **LEVEL 1** – Not less than 500 words or more than 1,000 words
 LEVEL 2 – Not less than 750 words or more than 1,500 words

Writing Style: *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers, Seventh Edition* is to be followed by the writer.

- Make sure to acknowledge all resources that you use as you prepare your paper. According to the *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers, Seventh Edition*:
 Plagiarism involves two kinds of wrongs. Using another person’s ideas, information, or expressions without acknowledging that person’s work constitutes intellectual theft. Passing off another person’s ideas, information, or expressions as your own to get a better grade or gain some advantage constitutes fraud. (52)
- You may reference *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers, Seventh Edition* by going to the Modern Language Association website: www.mla.org

MLA Style Requirements to be used for the National LAOH Irish History Writing Contest:

- Paper is to use double line spacing throughout the paper including the (1) title page, (2) body of paper, (3) quotations, and (4) works cited
- Paper is to be completed using a word processor preferably, but a legibly hand-written papers is acceptable
- Paper is to be printed or hand-written on white paper, single-sided only
- Letter font is not to exceed 12 point if using a word processing software program or double line spaced if paper is hand-written

- Margins are to be one (1) inch at the (1) top of page, (2) bottom of page, (3) left side of page, and (4) right side of page
- Paragraphs are to be indented one-half ($\frac{1}{2}$) inch from left margin, the indented line alerts the reader to a new paragraph as you use double line spacing throughout the paper
- Quotations that run less than four (4) lines are incorporated in the body of the paragraph
- Quotations are to be indented one (1) inch from left margin if the quotation runs more than four (4) lines
- References are to be acknowledged in the body of the text using *MLA Style* that requires the writer to use a parenthetical citation that typically uses only the author's name and page number enclosed in parentheses at the end of the sentence prior the end of the sentence punctuation
- References are to be acknowledged in the Works Cited Page that follows the body of the paper where the author's name is flush with the left margin and the second double line spacing is indented one-half ($\frac{1}{2}$) inch from the left margin
- Works Cited is the title to be used to acknowledge the references used, the term "Bibliography" is not acceptable
- All references in the Works Cited section should be in alphabetical order

Additional Style Requirements to be used for the National LAOH Irish History Writing Contest:

- Title Page is to be provided using double line spacing and must provide the student's name, address, city, state, zip code, phone number, school name, grade level, and number of words in paper exclusive of Works Cited section
- The Title Page should not be numbered
- Page numbers are to be placed in the upper right hand corner at one-half ($\frac{1}{2}$) inch from the top margin at the right margin; the student's name should not appear in front of the page number
- Page numbers should be consecutive beginning with the first page of the body of the paper through the Works Cited section of the paper
- Drawings, maps, charts, etc. are not to be included in the title page or the body of the paper
- Wikipedia is not to be used as a reference in this writing contest

2011-2012 National LAOH Irish History Writing Contest Judging Criteria:

- Each paper will be evaluated in these categories with a maximum number of points allocated for each category: (1) Comprehension [30 points], (2) Organization [20 points], (3) Conclusion [15 points], (4) Creativity [20 points], and (5) Writing [15 points]
- Please refer to the Judging Criteria Sheet for assistance in learning how the judges will evaluate the student paper. The suggested questions are not limiting criteria for the judges, but rather they are provided to assist the judges with minimum criteria to use when evaluating the student paper
- The student's title page will be removed and the paper will be given a number prior to be given to the judges, so the judges are able to evaluate each paper without prejudice
- All papers submitted to the judges to be evaluated are to be without any markings
- Student papers will be disqualified if there are any markings on the paper as it is evaluated
- The Irish Historian at each level will determine the minimum score to be achieved for the student paper to be forwarded to the next level within the Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians, Inc. for further consideration in the 2011-2012 National LAOH Irish History Writing Contest