

Masonic Lodges support
public education and value
highly the seven classic
liberal arts and sciences:

grammar, rhetoric,
logic, arithmetic,
geometry, music
and astronomy.

ESSAY TOPIC

In a world where A.I., ChatGpt, Writesonic, Anyword, Grammarly and many other research and writing assistants are available to generate essays, speeches, term papers, etc., as well as many other documents, what does integrity look like in a world of shortcuts? Does AI enhance or threaten human progress?



KANSAS MASONIC FOUNDATION
Helping Kansans and Kansas Communities

2026 State Masonic Public School ESSAY CONTEST

\$12,000 awarded to juniors & seniors

Dear High School English Teacher's & Counselors:

I am writing today about a wonderful financial scholarship opportunity for all Juniors and Seniors attending a High School in Kansas.

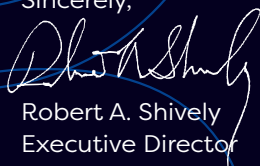
The 2026 State Masonic Public School Essay Contest has been in existence for over 60-years and has awarded more than \$700,000 statewide to deserving high school students. Annually \$12,000 is awarded with \$4,000 given for the best essay.

We would like to encourage all High Schools across the State to participate and have their juniors and seniors complete a 300-500 word essay. Many high schools often utilize this exciting program as a "class assignment" and then submit all of the essays for consideration.

We encourage you to contact your local Kansas Masonic Lodge (listing attached) to coordinate the submission of the essays and to answer any questions that you may have. You may also call the Grand Lodge of Kansas at 785-234-5518 if you need help making contact with a Masonic Lodge near you.

Thank you very much for your attention, and we look forward to having your students participate and WIN!

Sincerely,



Robert A. Shively
Executive Director
785-357-7646
Bob@KansasMasonic.Foundation

Freemasons throughout the world, the Grand Lodge of Kansas, and local Masonic Lodges support public education and value highly the seven classic liberal arts and sciences: grammar, rhetoric, logic, arithmetic, geometry, music and astronomy.

To download a fillable pdf, go to
www.kansasmasonic.foundation/program/essay-contest/



Abilene

Benevolent Lodge No.98
116 1/2 NW 3rd St
785-479-6886

Almena

Naphtali Lodge No.310
409 Main St
785-854-8046

Alta Vista

Alta Vista Lodge No.357
705 Main St
785-466-0166

Americus

Americus Lodge No.109
551 Broadway St
620-341-0218

Anthony

Anthony Lodge No.200
218 S Kansas
316-253-5868

Arkansas City

Crescent Lodge No.133
202 S B Street
620-506-8106

Atwood

Atwood Lodge No.164
113 S 5th St
785-626-6107

Augusta

Mystic Tie Lodge No.74
526 1/2 State St
316-259-5275

Baldwin City

Palmyra Lodge No.23
807 High St
913-634-9163

Belleville

Belleville Lodge No.129
1814 L Street
785-955-2354

Beloit

Mt. Vernon Lodge No.145
103 1/2 W Court
785-738-7531

Benedict

Benedict Lodge No.403
Main St
620-330-6648

Bronson

Xenia Lodge No.47
664 Wood Rd
913-568-1287

Burden

Clinton Lodge No.233
406 N Main St
620-590-6110

Burlingame

Corinthian Lodge No.79
106 E Fremont Ave
785-220-3288

Burlington

Burlington Lodge No.66
118 N 3rd St
620-340-2487

Carbondale

Carbondale Lodge No.70
228 Main St
785-249-6313

Chanute

Cedar Lodge No.103
102 N Highland Ave
620-212-3539

Circleville

Circleville Lodge No.20
201 Lovejoy St, PO Box 53
785-851-0526

Clay Center

Clay Center Lodge No.134
2317 7th St
785-452-1684

Clearwater

Unity Lodge No.273
112 W Ross
316-650-7189

Climax

Climax Lodge No.411
104 W 5th St
620-9532289

Coffeyville

Keystone Lodge No.102
2001 Woodland Ave
918-214-6396

Colby

St. Thomas Lodge No.306
215 N Franklin Ave
785-462-4200

Coldwater

Comanche Lodge No.295
111 E Main St
620-338-1306

De Soto

De Soto Lodge No.40
33075 W 83rd St
913-908-5270

Derby

Derby Lodge No.365
125 E Market St
316-788-0911

Devon

Devon Lodge No.92
Highway 7
620-215-0346

Dodge City

St. Bernard Lodge No.222
1207 W Mcartor Rd
620-408-6713

Douglass

Douglass Lodge No.151
916 E 3rd St
316-650-6002

Dover

Dover Lodge No.138
5701 SW Douglas Rd
785-221-1495

Easton

Easton Lodge No.45
3rd & Riley St
913-651-6040

Edna

Edna Lodge No.345
117 N Delaware St
620-251-2609

El Dorado

Patmos Lodge No.97
121 E Pine St
316-323-8225

Elk City

Carson Lodge No.132
112 N Montgomery
620-627-2591

Ellsworth

Ellsworth Lodge No.146
307 N Lincoln Ave
785-472-8897

Emporia

Emporia Lodge No.12
424 Merchant St
620-757-6168

Emporia

Justice Lodge No.457
424 Merchant St
620-496-5090

Emporia

Tuscan Lodge No.460
424 Merchant St
620-757-6168

Ensign

Ensign Lodge No.413
302 Aubrey St
620-255-2658

Erie

Erie Lodge No.76
221 S Main, PO Box 72
620-820-1345

Eureka

Fidelity Lodge No.106
109 S Walnut St
620-583-0161

Florence

Advance Lodge No.114
417-1/2 Main St
620-382-7310

Fort Leavenworth

Hancock Lodge No.311
311 Kearny Ave, PO Box 3408
915-307-0644

Fort Scott

Rising Sun Lodge No.8
902 S National Ave
785-418-5301

Fredonia

Constellation Lodge No.95
318 N 6th St, PO Box 244
620-870-4026

Galena

Galena Lodge No.194
204 Joplin St
620-249-3413

Garden City

Tyrian Lodge No.246
905 E Kansas Plaza
620-397-1721

Gardner

Gardner Lodge No.65
105 1/2 S Elm St
913-706-0610

Garland

Memphis Lodge No.108
2631 Eagle Rd
620-224-1039

Garnett

Delphian Lodge No.44
1721 NE Lake Road
620-852-3358

Girard

Girard Lodge No.93
125 S Summit St
620-249-2048

Goodland

Goodland Lodge No.321
519 Center St
620-872-4485

Great Bend

Great Bend Lodge No.15
1917 17th St
620-617-3634

Greensburg

Kiowa Lodge No.293
225 E Kansas
620-546-5034

Gridley

Hebron Lodge No.314
413 Main St
620-364-2123

Harper

Harper Lodge No.206
913 W Main
620-955-7048

Hays
Hays Lodge No.195
107 W 11th St
785-639-2449

Haysville
Haysville Lodge No.112
300 S Main
316-768-9202

Hiawatha
Hiawatha Lodge No.35
601 Utah St
785-547-3432

Highland
Smithton Lodge No. 1
306 W Main St
785-741-4561

Hill City
Millbrook Lodge No.281
305 W Main St
785-627-6069

Hoisington
Hoisington Lodge No.331
351 W 2nd St
620-786-4585

Holton
Holton Lodge No.42
100 E 5th St
785-383-0133

Howard
Hope Lodge No.155
100 W Washingtom
620-249-9133

Hoxie
Hoxie Lodge No.348
840 9th St, PO Box 224
785-657-1797

Hugoton
Hugoton Lodge No.406
112 E 6th St
620-353-9927

Hutchison
Hutchinson-Reno Lodge
No.124
608 N Main
620-664-7770

Independence
Fortitude Lodge No.107
2000 W Laurel St
620-330-1676

Iola
Iola Lodge No.38
213 W Madison Ave
620-365-4674

Johnson
Johnson Lodge No.441
213 S Main St
620-952-1247

Junction City
Union Lodge No.7
722 1/2 N Washington
712-204-6256

Kansas City
Arthur H. Strickland Lodge
No.452
2835 N 103rd Ter
913-669-2473

Kansas City
Delaware Lodge No.96
1442 S 30th St
913-515-2270

Kansas City
Wyandotte Lodge No.3
2835 N 103rd Ter
913-669-2473

Kincaid
Kincaid Lodge No.338
406 1st Ave
620-363-2053

Kingman
Ninnesch Lodge No.230
247 N Main St
620-532-4546

Kiowa
Cosmos Lodge No.278
202 S 9th
620 213-2283

Lakin
Emerald Lodge No.289
214 N Main St
620-271-4643

Latham
Latham Lodge No.401
229 W Blaine
316-641-2232

Lawrence
Acacia Lodge No.9
1301 E 25th St
313-478-2991

Lawrence
Lawrence Lodge No.6
1301 E 25th Street
785-371-6874

Leavenworth
King Solomon Lodge No.10
423 1/2 Delaware St
719-551-9782

Lebo
Lebo Lodge No.152
2 W Broadway
620-344-1017

Leon
Joppa Lodge No.223
115 W Mechanic St
316-250-6438

LeRoy
Neosho Lodge No.27
438 Main St
620-203-0396

Lewis
Lewis Lodge No.220
210 Main St
620-546-3837

Liberal
 Fargo Lodge No.300
16 E 4th St
620-629-5410

Lindsborg
Lindsborg Lodge No.397
112 S Main St
620-245-8059

Louisburg
Peace Lodge No.243
4 S 1st St, Suite B
913-244-6148

Lyndon
Euclid Lodge No.101
108 E 7th St
785-633-7461

Madison
Madison Lodge No.196
308 W Main
620-437-6844

Manhattan
Lafayette Lodge No.16
322 Houston St, Ste. A
785-349-2421

Mankato
Jewell County Lodge No.11
114 N Commercial
785-534-0482

Marion
Centre Lodge No.147
105 S 4th St
620-382-4839

Marysville
Marysville Lodge No.91
1733 Center St
785-713-1512

Mayetta
Mayetta Lodge No.393
120 E Main St
785-224-8356

McPherson
McPherson Lodge No.172
311 S Main St
620-755-0627

Merriam
Rosedale Lodge No.333
6161 Slater St
480-773-1202

Merriam
Shawnee Lodge No.54
6161 Slater St
913-215-2676

Moran
Marmaton Lodge No.245
218 N Spruce St
620-363-1528

Mound City
Mound City Lodge No.33
324 Walnut St
620-496-7929

Mulvane
Mulvane Lodge No.201
104 1/2 W Main
785-550-5916

Neodesha
Harmony Lodge No.94
416 1/2 Main St
620-485-4928

Newton
Newton Lodge No.142
106 E Broadway
316 708-1622

Nickerson
Nickerson Lodge No.43
5 N Nickerson St
620-639-2053

Oberlin
Mountain Slope Lodge No.186
109 W Commercial
785-475-3949

Onaga
Onaga Lodge No.188
302 1/2 Leonard St
785-307-6131

Oskaloosa
Oskaloosa Lodge No.14
524 1/2 Liberty
785-691-5113

Ottawa
Ottawa Lodge No.18
422 S Main St
785-224-4928

Overland Park
Overland Park Lodge No.436
8109 Overland Park Dr
913-638-2848

Overland Park
Temple Builders Lodge No.462
8109 Overland Park Dr
913-638-2848

Oxford
Oxford Lodge No.165
201 N Sumner
620-590-6110

Paola
Paola Lodge No.37
209 S Silver St
913-244-6471

Parker
Parker Lodge No.341
6595 W 2100 Road
913-927-5172

Parsons
Parsons Lodge No.117
102 N 17th St
620-778-3144

Perry
Perry Lodge No.415
520 E Front St
785-312-2486

Pittsburg
Marvin A. Armstrong Lodge
No.187
3105 N Joplin St
816-738-1501

Plainville
Paradise Lodge No.290
109 S Main
785-769-3113

Pomona
McKinley Lodge No.41
125 E Franklin, (Hwy 68)
316-250-7357

Prairie Village
Inner Quest Lodge No.456
5201 W 75th St
816--656-0177

Prairie Village
Old Mission Lodge No.153
5201 W 75th St
816-416-0530

Pratt
Kilwinning Lodge No.265
123 1/2 S Main
620-532-4032

Rush Center
Walnut City Lodge No.215
107 S Elm
785-735-4783

Russell
Russell Lodge No.177
115 E Wisconsin
785-483-7873

Saint Francis
St. Francis Lodge No.404
116 N Quincy
785-332-0342

Salina
Caledonia Lodge No.459
336 S Santa Fe
620-755-0627

Salina
Salina Lodge No.60
143 S 3rd St
785-819-2318

Savonburg
Virginia Lodge No.315
101 4400 St
620-363-0793

Scott City
Anthem Lodge No.284
600 Cedar Dr
620-214-3827

Sharon Springs
Sharon Springs Lodge No.417
122 N Main St
785-852-4246

Shawnee Mission
John H. Atwood Lodge No.461
5300 Metcalf Ave
913-683-3041

Silver Lake
Lake Lodge No.50
100 Beaubein
785-249-8591

Solomon
Solomon City Lodge No.105
101 E 4th St
859-486-9055

Spring Hill
Spring Hill Lodge No.56
403 W South St
913-208-9484

Sterling
Sterling Lodge No.171
221 S Broadway
620-204-0281

Syracuse
Syracuse Lodge No.309
119 N Gates St
620-384-4557

Tecumseh
Albert Neese Lodge No.248
5947 SE 45th St
785-640-1731

Thayer
Thayer Lodge No.149
415 N Okmulgee St
620-332-7107

Tonganoxie
Henri Lodge No.190
311 S Delaware
913-484-2822

Topeka
Golden Rule Lodge No.90
909 NW Lyman Rd
785-383-7831

Topeka
Mount Zion Lodge No.266
221 SW 33rd St
785-554-6476

Topeka
Orient-Topeka Lodge No.17
221 SW 33rd St
785-249-8511

Toronto
Woodson Lodge No.121
201 W Main St
620-583-2090

Troy
Troy Lodge No.55
236 S Main St
816-383-1906

Ulysses
Ulysses Lodge No.435
909 N Joyce
620-353-0256

Walnut
Vulcan Lodge No.229
119 S Main St
620-215-0346

Wamego
Wamego Lodge No.75
519 1/2 Lincoln Ave
785-844-0939

Waterville
Sutton Lodge No.85
102 E Commercial
785-313-4178

Wathena
Wathena Lodge No.64
404 N 4th Street
785-985-3808

Weir
Black Diamond Lodge No.274
107 W Main St, PO Box 112
620-762-0974

Wellington
Wellington Lodge No.150
2129 North A St
316-200-2699

Westmoreland
Westmoreland Lodge No.257
405 Main St
785-844-0939

Wichita
Albert Pike Lodge No.303
3013 W Central
316-200-5291

Wichita
Bestor G. Brown Lodge No.433
212 N West St
316-993-0901

Wichita
Community Daylight Lodge
No.453
2929 W Pawnee Ave
316-941-6186

Wichita
North Star Lodge No.168
212 N West St
316-650-6296

Wichita
Sunflower Lodge No.86
2929 W Pawnee Ave
316-512-6508

Wichita
Wichita Lodge No.99
2929 W Pawnee
316-641-8197

Williamsburg
Anchor Lodge No.224
126 W Willams St
785-229-2013

Winfield
Winfield Lodge No.110
106 E 8th Ave
620-229-1940

Winona
Wallace Lodge No.318
411 Bellview St
785-462-9061

Yates Center
Gilead Lodge No.144
116 E Butler St
620-496-5205

ESSAY TOPIC

In a world where A.I., ChatGpt, Writesonic, Anyword, Grammarly and many other research and writing assistants are available to generate essays, speeches, term papers, etc., as well as many other documents, what does integrity look like in a world of shortcuts? Does AI enhance or threaten human progress? Both? Without using an electronic writing assistant, write an essay explaining your thoughts and rationale.

CONTEST RULES: To download a fillable PDF, go to www.kansasmasonic.foundation/program/kansas-masonic-foundation-scholarships

QUALIFICATIONS

1. Any Junior or Senior attending a Kansas tax-supported public high school is eligible.
2. Contact any Kansas Masonic Lodge, Kansas Mason, or your counselor for information.
3. Essays will be judged on originality, research, and development of the topic.
4. Contestant **must follow contest rules** as to topic, number of words, etc.

RULES

5. Essays shall be limited to a **minimum of 300** and a **maximum of 500 words**.
6. Essays must be **typewritten, double spaced**, with work cited, on standard **8 1/2" x 11" paper with a 12 point Arial font**.
7. The **original and one copy** of the essay must be submitted to the Local Lodge.
8. Essays **MUST** have a typed title page (download a fillable PDF from www.kansasmasonic.foundation/program/kansas-masonic-foundation-scholarships) that will show the student's name, gender, complete address, Junior or Senior Class, and School name. This information shall appear **only on the title page**. All pages, except the title page, must be numbered.
NO REFERENCE TO THE STUDENT'S NAME, TOWN, SCHOOL, OR OTHER COMMUNITY IDENTIFIER SHOULD APPEAR ANYWHERE IN THE BODY OF THE ESSAY.
9. All essays become the property of the Local Masonic Lodge and may be published without the author's permission.

TIMELINE

10. Essays must be submitted to the Local Lodge on or before **November 1, 2026**.
11. The winning essay(s) from a Local Lodge (one per high school in the Lodge's area) will be sent to the Grand Lodge and must be postmarked no later than **December 1, 2026**.
12. There are no contest entry forms. **Essays are to be presented to the Local Lodge.**
13. Essays must first win the Local Lodge competition before they can be submitted for State competition.
14. Grand Lodge essay winners will be notified prior to March 1, 2027.

SPONSORED BY THE MW GRAND LODGE OF AF & AM OF KANSAS
AND THE KANSAS MASONIC FOUNDATION.

PRIZES

1st place:	\$4,000
2nd place:	\$3,000
3rd place:	\$2,000
4th place:	\$1,000

HONORABLE MENTION

4 WILL BE CHOSEN: \$500 EACH

2025 LIST OF WINNERS

First Place (\$4,000)

JAMES WUENSCH

Rossville High School
Lake Lodge No. 50 (Silver Lake)

Second Place (\$3,000)

CHASE PALMER

Sylvan Lucas High School, Luray, KS
Ellsworth Lodge No. 146

Third Place (\$2,000)

KAMRYN MCCAULEY

Doniphan West High School
Smithton Lodge No. 1

Fourth Place (\$1,000)

GRANT RICE

Minneapolis High School
Minneapolis Lodge No. 143

Honorable Mention (\$500)

ELLIE RIEKHOF

Salina Central High School
Salina Lodge No. 60

Honorable Mention (\$500)

GABRIELLA POELS

Phillipsburg High School
Paradise Lodge No. 290 (Plainville)

Honorable Mention (\$500)

MCKENNA CHANNELL

Beloit High School
Mt. Vernon Lodge No. 145 (Beloit)

Honorable Mention (\$500)

TRILBEY DORSEY

South Barber High School
Cosmos Lodge No. 278 (Kiowa)

MW Grand Lodge of AF & AM of Kansas 2026 Essay Contest

TITLE PAGE

In a world where A.I., ChatGpt, Writesonic, Anyword, Grammarly and many other research and writing assistants are available to generate essays, speeches, term papers, etc., as well as many other documents, what does integrity look like in a world of shortcuts? Does AI enhance or threaten human progress? Both? Without using an electronic writing assistant, write an essay explaining your thoughts and rationale.

STUDENT:

Must be typed - download a fillable PDF from www.kansasmasonic.foundation/program/essay-contest/

Name: _____

Gender: ☐ Male ☐ Female

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Class: ☐ Junior ☐ Senior

School: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Teacher: _____

LODGE:

Name: _____ No _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____



MW GRAND LODGE
OF AF & AM OF KANSAS



KANSAS MASONIC FOUNDATION
Helping Kansans and Kansas Communities