



ST. ANDREW SOCIETY OF TALLAHASSEE ANNUAL ESSAY CONTEST INSTRUCTIONS

The St. Andrew Society of Tallahassee announces its **Annual Essay Contest**. All public and private middle-school students residing in Gadsden, Jefferson, Leon, Wakulla, Grady (GA), and Thomas (GA) counties are eligible to enter the contest. **Interested students do not have to be of Scottish descent or a Society member to submit an essay.** First and second prizes are \$300 and \$200, respectively. **Deadline for receipt of essays is March 18 of each calendar year.**

Topic

Students may select any essay theme relevant to **one** of the following three general topics:

1. Scotland's influence on America, and what this means to me (*please choose a particular example of this influence for your essay theme*); **or**
2. Americans of Scottish descent, past or present, in North Florida or South Georgia who have inspired me (*please select a particular individual or group for your essay theme*); **or**
3. Scotland's cultural tradition (history, philosophy, science, literature, art, music, dance, etc.) and how this tradition has influenced me (*please select a particular aspect of Scottish culture for your theme*).

The student's essay should be as specific and personal as possible in demonstrating how the chosen topic has influenced his/her life experiences.

The Society will only accept one essay per student. Essays must consist of original material composed by the student. Students submitting essay content taken from print or electronic media without identifying sources will be disqualified. Students must provide full citations for quoted or paraphrased sources.

The Society will invite winners to present their essays at a St. Andrew Society of Tallahassee function, date, time, and place to be determined. The Society will also publish winning essays in its monthly *St. Andrew's Cross* newsletter.

Essay Formatting Requirements

Essays must:

1. Have a title specific to the theme of your essay.
2. Have a minimum of 1,000 and a maximum of 3,000 words.
3. Cite all quoted or paraphrased source materials in the narrative or in footnotes.
4. Consist of a typed, double-spaced Microsoft Word or Word-compatible document in standard letter orientation (8.5 x 11 inches) with one-inch margins and page numbers.
5. Use a Times New Roman font with a font size of 12.
6. Include a COVER PAGE (see below) with all entries completed.

Cover Page Instructions

1. You must submit a completed Cover Page with your essay.
2. Please complete all items listed below under the heading “Cover Page Format.” The St. Andrew Society will not consider an essay with an incomplete Cover Page.
3. Your Cover Page must include the name of a faculty sponsor. The faculty sponsor can be any teacher or administrator at your high school.
4. Include your essay and completed Cover Page as attachments to your email to the St. Andrew Society of Tallahassee Educator (gwr8008@aol.com). Deadline for receipt of essays is **March 18 of each calendar year.**

Cover Page Format

Your name:

Home address (street, city, and zip):

Telephone number where you can most easily be reached:

Email address:

Name of high school you attend:

Grade:

Name of your faculty sponsor:

Telephone number where your sponsor can most easily be reached:

Essay Submission Instructions

1. Please submit your essay and completed COVER PAGE as email attachments to the St. Andrew Society Educator gwr8008@aol.com. The essay must be a Word or Word-compatible file meeting the formatting requirements listed above in the “Essay Formatting Requirement” section.
2. Please remember that your COVER PAGE must include the name and telephone contact number of a faculty sponsor who teaches at your high school.
3. Deadline for submitting your essay and cover page to the Society is **March 18 of each calendar year.**

Scoring of Essays

A committee of St. Andrew Society of Tallahassee Board members will review and score essays using the following criteria:

1. The essay meets all formatting and submission requirements. Essay content consists of the student's own material, except where appropriate citations are provided for quoted or paraphrased source material. Maximum points: **20**.
2. Essay content is clearly written; well organized; and free of grammatical, punctuation, and spelling errors. Maximum points: **20**.
3. The theme of the essay is relevant to one of the three general topics referenced above in the instructions. The essay theme clearly demonstrates specific ways in which the subject matter has influenced the student's personal life experiences. Maximum points: **25**.
4. The essay exhibits a highly creative, personal, and unique approach to the chosen topic. Maximum points: **25**.
5. Essay content is enhanced and supported by well-chosen citations. The essay demonstrates relevance rather than quantity of citations. Maximum points: **10**.

Maximum possible points: **100**.

Essay reviewers will independently score each essay. The Society Educator will average reviewers' individual scores for each of the five criteria listed above. The sum of the average scores for the five criteria will constitute the overall score for each essay. The Society will declare the students whose essay scores rank first and second among all entries as the winners. Winners will be notified by May 18 of each calendar year. **The St. Andrew Society of Tallahassee reserves the right not to make awards if no essays scoring a minimum of 70 points are received.**

Questions? Need assistance? Please email the St. Andrew Society Educator at gwr8008@aol.com. We'll be happy to help.

About The St. Andrew Society of Tallahassee

Founded in 1976, the St. Andrew Society of Tallahassee, a not-for-profit 501(c)(3) corporation, is a charitable and fraternal organization comprised of Scots, descendants of Scottish and Ulster Scot immigrants, and many other individuals who may not be of Scottish ancestry but who simply enjoy things Scottish. The Society's purpose is to honor, celebrate, and promote the contributions made by Scots and Ulster Scots to the foundation and growth of the United States, to Scotland, and to the world.