

LADIES ANCIENT ORDER OF HIBERNIANS, INC.



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August 1, 2017

Dear County and Division Sisters:

I am looking forward to working with you during the next two years as your State Historian. Please feel free to contact me via phone or email for any issues that I may be able to provide assistance. My address is 117 Summit Drive, Sewickley PA 15143, my email is [laoh23alleggheny@verizon.net](mailto:laoh23alleggheny@verizon.net) and my cell phone is 412-953-1875.

The topic for the 2017-2018 writing contest is: "Expressing Irish History through Music." Please remember this contest is open to all students in grades 6 through 12. Enclosed is information on the contest, deadline dates and guidelines for the Historian Officers provided from the National Board. I will be sure to pass along any additional information that I may receive.

Let me know if you have any questions/concerns based on the information being provided and I will provide assistance.

In Friendship, Unity and Christian Charity,

Kathleen Diulus  
PA State Historian

Enclosures: National Irish History Writing Packet

CC: Rae DiSpaldo, PA LAOH State President  
Mary Ann Lubinsky, PA LAOH Webmaster

## IRISH HISTORIAN GUIDELINES

1. "Promote proper recognition of the study of Irish History in Catholic, public and private schools, home schools, colleges and all educational institutions" (National Constitution)
2. "Publicize the annual Irish History Writing Contest through Boards, Divisions and local press."(National Constitution).
3. "Recommend Irish History Writing Contest subjects to the National Irish Historian."(National Constitution)
4. "Recommend to State/County and Division Historians suggested topics and material for the study of Irish History."(National Constitution)
5. "Select qualified judges with expertise in history and education." (National Constitution) A minimum of 3 Judges per level.
6. The National Irish Historian will submit the Irish History Writing Topics, Rules and Judging Criteria to the State Irish Historians by September 1,2017.
7. The State Irish Historians are to forward the information from National to County Board and Division Historians by September 15, 2017.
8. The Irish History Writing Contest Information shall be shared with school, home schooled students, Parishes and any other interested party by October 1, 2017.
9. Each student entering the 2017-2018 National LAOH Irish History Writing Contest should be given a copy of the Student Information, Contest Rules, and a copy of the 2017-2018 National LAOH Irish History Writing Contest Judging Criteria.
10. Students are to write their essays from October 1, 2017-November 15, 2017
11. All entries shall be submitted by November 15, 2017 to the Local LAOH Division. The student needs to submit 4 copies of his/her essay.
12. A minimum of 3 judges is required for all Divisions, County Board, State Boards and National Board Levels.
13. Judging on the Division level will begin on November 15, 2017. A minimum of 3 judges is required.
13. 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.
14. 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.
15. At each level, the Irish Historian shall determine the recommended score to be achieved to move the student paper to the next level.
16. 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.
17. The Irish Historian shall provide to the judges the 2017-2018 National LAOH Irish History Writing Contest Judging Criteria to assist each judge in recording student scores.
18. Each paper is to be evaluated using the Judging Criteria. 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.

19. The judges should also review the 2017-2018 National LAOH Student Information and Contest Rules prior to evaluating each student paper.

20.. A total of 7 essays per Level may be submitted from the Division to the County by December 15, 2017. When submitting to the next level send all 4 copies of each winning essay.

21. If there is no County structure in your State, the Winning essays will be submitted to the State by January 15, 2018. Remember to send all 4 copies of winning essays.

22.A total of 7 essays per Level can be submitted from the County Board to the State Board by January 15, 2018. Remember to send all 4 copies of each essay.

23.. A total of 7 essays per Level for each State can be submitted to the National Irish Historian by February 15, 2018. Remember to send all 4 copies of each essay.

24. Judging on the National Level will start on February 15, 2018. Awards for both Levels will be First, Second, Third and 2 Honorable Mentions.

25. Winners will be announced March 31,2018

2017-2018 National LAOH Irish History Writing Contest

Judging Criteria

Student Paper Number \_\_\_\_\_

<u>COMPREHENSION:</u> (1-30 Points)	_____	How historically accurate is the essay? How well does the writer substantiate a thorough understanding of the issues involved in the topic? How well does the writer clearly distinguish in his/her discussion of the topic the thoughts, expressions, and ideas that are his/hers as opposed to those thoughts, expressions, and ideas of others? How well does the writer demonstrate his/her ability to grasp the wider implications of the topic? How well does the writer cite references used?
<u>ORGANIZATION:</u>	(1-20 Points) _____	How well does the writer organize his/her thoughts within the paragraphs? How well does the writer express his/her thoughts in a clear, effective manner? How well does the writer adhere to the MLA S tyle of writing requirements and the additional style requirements specified on the Student Information, Contest Rules, and Guidelines Sheet? How well does the writer adhere to the minimum and/or maximum number of words to be used for a LEVEL 1 or for a LEVEL 2 paper?
<u>CONCLUSION:</u>	(1-15 Points) _____	How well does the writer's conclusion logically follow from the material presented? How well does the writer's conclusion convince the reader?
<u>CREATIVITY:</u>	(1-20 Points) _____	How well does the writer utilize a variety of references to support his/her topic? How well does the writer convey a creative approach in addressing his/her topic? How well does the writer demonstrate an effective command of vocabulary as he/she expresses his/her thoughts?
<u>WRITING:</u>	(1-15 Points) _____	How well does the writer use correct spelling? How well does the writer follow grammar rules? How well does the writer use effective sentence structure? How well does the writer use effective transitions to move from one thought to another thought?

TOTAL SCORE: \_\_\_\_\_

The total score is the sum of the five (5) category scores.

## **2017-2018 National LAOH Irish History Writing Contest Student Information and Contest Rules**

**Eligibility & Information:** Students in grades 6 through 12 enrolled in parochial, private, public schools or who are home-schooled are eligible to participate in the 2017-2018 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 student entering the 2017-2018 National LAOH Irish History Writing Contest should be given a copy of the Student Information and Contest Rules as well as a copy of the 2017-2018 National LAOH Irish History Writing Contest Judging Criteria.

### **2017-2018 National LAOH Irish History Writing Contest Themes:**

**LEVEL 1** Grades 6-7-8 "Expressing Irish History through Music".

**LEVEL 2** Grades 9-10-11-12 "Expressing Irish History through Music".

### **2017-2018 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 and Contest Rules.
2. Students are to follow the MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers.
3. Each student is required to submit four(4) copies of their essay to the LAOH Division Irish Historian by November 15, 2017.
4. Each student through their participation gives permission to the Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians, Inc. to use their essay at LAOH meetings, events and/or in LAOH publications or websites.

### **2017-2018 National LAOH Irish History Writing Contest Timelines:**

- Contest Opens September 2017 National Historian submits to State by **September 1, 2017; State Historians to County and Division Historians by September 15, 2017**  
**Schools receive packages and students begin writing papers October 1, 2017**
- ( ) Division Level Submissions are to be received by November 15, 2017
- ( ) County Level Submissions are to be received by December 15, 2017
- State Level Submissions are to be received by January 15, 2018
- ( ) National Level Submissions are to be postmarked by February 15, 2018
- ( ) National to announce winners by March 31, 2018

### **2017-2018 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
Honorable Mention	\$50	\$100

**2017-2018 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 Requirements to be used for the National LAOH Irish History Writing Contest:**

A student must follow the MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers, Seventh Edition.

- 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).  
If the student does not credit sources, the essay will be disqualified.
- You may reference MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers Seventh Edition by going to the Modern Language Association website: [www.mla.org](http://www.mla.org)
  
- Paper is to use double line spacing throughout the paper including the (1) title page, (2) body of paper, (3) quotations, and (4) sources used page (MLA -- Works Cited)
- Paper is to be typed or computer printed single-sided only
- Letter font is not to exceed 12 point
- 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 (½) inch from left margin, the indented line alerts the reader to a new paragraph as you use double lines spacing throughout the paper
- MLA Style—Quotations that run less than four (4) lines are incorporated in the body of the paragraph
- MLA Style—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 the MLA Style .
- Sources used are to be listed on a separate page after the body of the paper. The MLA Style uses the title Works Cited for the page. The author's name is flush with the left margin and the second double line spacing is indented one-half (½) inch from the left margin
- The Works Cited (MLA) should be numbered as the next page following the last page of the body of the paper. All entries should be in alphabetical order.
- The term "Bibliography" is not acceptable for the sources used page

**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(home, school or parish)city, state, zip code, phone number, school name, grade level, and number of words in paper exclusive of the Works Cited/References section
- The Title Page should not be numbered
- Page numbers are to be placed in the upper right hand corner at one-half (½) 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/References section of the paper.
- Running Heads are not to be used
- Drawings, maps, charts, pictures, 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

**2017-2018 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.

**Further Information:**

- Contact: Dee Wallace, LAOH National Irish Historian  
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Aiken, SC 29803  
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- (1) Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians, Inc. National Website: [www.ladiesaoh.com](http://www.ladiesaoh.com)