



2024/2025 Essay Contest!

This year, we are offering 4 topics instead of one. Please pick one of the four topics posted below and write an essay that addresses that topic.

- 1) **Membership;** As membership seems to have declined within Masonry, what can we as Masons do to encourage growth within the Craft? With our limitations on recruitment, what creative ways can we do (if any) to draw more men into the Craft and keep our membership involved with the Craft?
- 2) **Community Visibility;** In the 1920s, Freemasons were highly visible within our communities and the Craft appeared to grow quickly. In the 1960s, Freemasons became secretive, and membership declined. How does visibility, (increased or decreased) hurt or help our Lodges, our Members, and the Craft in general?
- 3) **Ritual;** How important is learning and delivering ritual to the Craft? Does learning ritual help our understanding and enhance our Masonic teaching and education?
- 4) **Social Media;** Can social media benefit you as a Mason, Lodges or the Craft? Does social media help to bolster our connections to Brethren, Lodges, and Jurisdictions? Or does social media create more issues? Describe how social media can either be a benefit or detrimental to the Craft. What are some of the precautions that need to be taken when using social media, if any?

ESSAY FORMAT:

PLEASE MAKE YOUR SUBMISSION DOUBLE SPACED, TIMES NEW ROMAN FONT AND NO MORE THAN 1500 WORDS. IF REFERENCING ANY OTHER MATERIAL, PLEASE USE APA FORMAT TO RECOGNIZE THE MATERIAL.

THE USE OF AI AT THIS TIME IS PROHIBITED AND WILL RESULT IN IMMEDIATE DISQUALIFICATION. PLEASE INCLUDE A TITLE PAGE WITH YOUR NAME, EMAIL, LODGE NAME NUMBER AND WHICH JURISDICTION YOU ARE FROM.

PRIZES AND WINNERS WILL BE ANNOUNCED BY MARCH 1ST, 2025.

CONTEST RUNS FROM NOVEMBER 1ST 2024 UNTIL JANUARY 31ST, 2025.

THIS CONTEST IS OPEN TO ALL MASONS WHO WISH TO ENTER. IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, PLEASE FEEL FREE TO ASK VIA THE EMAIL LISTED BELOW.

We encourage and welcome original thought, opinions and points of view. Be creative, and express yourself.

**PLEASE SUBMIT YOUR FINISHED ESSAYS TO
ASHLARSUBMISSIONS@GMAIL.COM**

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