**Gallatin Valley**

**Right To Life**

**“Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves....”**

Proverbs 31:8

**2024 Essay Contest Guidelines**

Essays must be prolife and original. Topics include, but are not limited to, abortion, euthanasia, special needs, adoption, stem cell research, in-vitro fertilization, post-abortion syndrome, fetal development, abstinence, etc.

Essays may be persuasive or informative. An informative essay must still send a prolife message. The conclusion should be presented well, even if it does not try to persuade the reader of something. A persuasive essay does not require as many facts or references as an informative one, but should have an argument that is logical and/or backed up by facts. Facts should always be backed up by endnotes/references.

Each division will be scored appropriate to normal writing experience for those grades. Fourth through sixth grade students should include verifiable references where applicable, but formatting them as endnotes is optional. A “Works Cited” page or “According to …” will suffice. Seventh through twelfth grade students are encouraged to use endnotes.

On the next page is the scoring sheet the judges will use. I hope this information will be helpful to you as you write and speak about such an important subject. Please contact me if you have any questions. Remember, no matter what your score, you’re already achieving the most important goal of all – standing up for Life! Thank you!

Katie Godfrey

Gallatin Valley Right To Life

2024 GVRTL Essay Scoring Sheet

Division: Total Score:

Judge:

**INTRODUCTION: of 10 Total Points**

of 10 - How well is the Essay laid out in the beginning? Does it make you want to read more? Does it have a clear thesis?

**CONTENT: of 75 Total Points**

of 15 - Does it have a logical, clear organization?

of 15 - Is it well substantiated with current references\*?

\*Wikipedia, Answers.com, Ask.com, etc. will not be counted as references.

of 15 - Does it contain good word usage?

of 15 - Is each point relevant to the topic?

of 15 – Has the student used correct spelling, grammar, and punctuation?

**CONCLUSION: of 15 Total Points**

of 15 - Does the conclusion express the student's personal view on the relevance, impact or practical application of the topic? (Quality of writing is important in the conclusion, but, unlike the main body, it is may be the student's opinion and so does not have to be backed up by sources.)