



A Forum for Achievement!



EPC-2018

(ANNUAL ESSAY/PANEL CONTEST)

27 Jan 2018 (*Essay Due date: 10-Jan-18*)

EPC is a continuation of our efforts to provide Muslim Youth with a skill enhancement platform that gives them the opportunity to develop their writing, speaking and leadership skills. This is a forum for articulation, reflection and advancement. **This is a youth development event that should not be missed!** Be a part of it and experience the difference!

Write, Speak, and Publish!

EPC 2018 THEME: "ALHAMDULILLAH, I AM A MUSLIM"

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL (Levels 1 & 2): What makes me a Muslim and why am I proud to be a Muslim?**

Level 1 (Grades 1&2): Write a letter to your friend, explaining what does it mean to be a Muslim. Tell him/her some of the things you do home and at school as a Muslim. Don't forget to say also what makes you proud to be a Muslim.

Level 2 (Grades 3 & 4): Identify something you say and do at your home and outside as a Muslim. How do you think these actions are benefiting you? Are you proud and thankful of your Muslim identity? Why?

MIDDLE SCHOOL (Levels 3 & 4): How do I demonstrate that being a Muslim, makes me a better individual in my school, family, and the community I live in?

It's not always easy to maintain Muslim identity with all the negative incidents, news and attitude around us. Think about how you can encounter these negativities with your own words and actions as a Muslim. In particular, how do you think, by becoming a better Muslim you can be a better individual in your school, family, and the community you live in. How do you think it will boost up your morale and confidence as a Muslim?

HIGH SCHOOL PLUS (Levels 5 & 6): How to Keep the flame of faith alive?

We're taught in the Qur'an and Sunnah that holding on to faith is a difficult task indeed. Allah tells the believers in the Qur'an: "Do not die, except that you are in a state of Islam." The Prophet told us further that there will come a time that "an individual wakes up as a believer, but begins the night as a disbeliever..."

Our identity, pride, and confidence are being constantly hammered and attacked by negative campaign tactics with a clear target on our morale, spirit, and belief. Today, we are defined by others – we are stereotyped, our belief is portrayed as being obsolete and/or extreme – the goal is simple: to shake our belief and confidence, question our identity, and to tear our unity apart.

As a Muslim youth, what do you think is needed to enact a paradigm shift in our way of thinking, such that we can overcome, pushback, and encounter the negativity and face the challenges today with faith, strength, and pride? How do we keep the flames of faith raging strong in our hearts and in the hearts of our peers and community?

*See Instruction page below for the levels in which you will be competing.

****Level 1** writes a letter using friendly letter format. Please submit your scanned letter.

MULTI-MEDIA PRESENTATION CONTEST (interested participants)

An original and creative presentation of the essay topic to create a short, powerful multi-media presentation (video for example) that leaves the viewer with a ‘bang’!

POSTER CONTEST (interested participants)

Prepare a self-standing poster detailing your essay. The poster should be a mix of art and essay. A jpeg file of high quality is required. Best Posters will be published on the EPC book.

EPC Instruction Page

Essay and Speech Requirements, & Presentation Time (Subject to change):

Grades 1 to 4 (Levels 1 & 2): Elementary School

<u>Group Name</u>	<u>Grade Level</u>	<u>Maximum Words</u>	<u>Speech Time^{^*}</u>
LEVEL 1	1 st & 2 nd	250**	3 mins.
LEVEL 2	3 rd & 4 th	500	4 mins.

Grades 5 to 8 (Levels 3 & 4): Middle School

<u>Group Name</u>	<u>Grade Level</u>	<u>Maximum Words</u>	<u>Speech Time^{^*}</u>
LEVEL 3	5 th and 6 th	750	5 mins.
LEVEL 4	7 th and 8 th	750	6 mins.

Grades 9+: High School/College

<u>Group Name</u>	<u>Grade Level</u>	<u>Maximum Words</u>	<u>Speech Time^{^*}</u>
LEVEL 5	9 th and 10 th	1000	7 mins.
LEVEL 6	11 th thru College	1000	8 mins.

* ONLY the top contestants in the **Written Essay contest** of each level may participate in the Speech Contest.

^ **Subject to change**

**Please use a friendly letter format. Level 1 handwritten letter should not exceed 3 pages.

EPC Multimedia Contest Requirements

With the minimum time limit 30 seconds and maximum limit to 7 minutes, competitors will need to create a short, powerful video relating to the topic that leaves the viewer with a 'bang'!

Poster Contest Format & Guidelines:

Prepare and display your essay topic on a (32" x 40") self-standing poster. Poster could be a mixture of art and essay. A quality digital image of your poster is required. Submit your digital copy by 15 January 2018 (Visit <http://Epc.Mafiq.org> for submission instruction). Bring your poster for judging on 27 January 2018. You will be judged on artistic quality, interpretation of the essay topic, and presentation for the level you are competing. Top three posters in each level will be selected for awards and may get included in the next EPC book, in sha'Allah.

Multi-Media Presentation Contest Format & Guidelines:

Present your topic using multi-media outlets. Submit your digital copy by 10 January 2018 (Visit <http://Epc.Mafiq.org> for submission instruction) or to a **DESIGNATED EMAIL** address to be provided by the judging committee. Bring your media devices and present during the contest. You will be judged on artistic and technical quality, interpretation of the essay topic, and presentation. Use of appropriate Islamic Nasheed/Quranic recitation is encouraged. Multimedia Presentation time must not exceed the level specific speech contest time (see page 2 above).

GRAND PRIZE for High School Category

Compete in all 5 segments of EPC contests (essay, speech, poster, multimedia, and panel discussions) and earn a GRAND Prize.

Grand Prize will be awarded to the best overall performing High School participant. Qualifying candidate must participate in at least 4 of the 5 possible competitions (essay, speech, poster, multimedia, and panel discussions).

Sponsors: ADAMS CENTER, AL-HUDA SCHOOL, AL FATIH ACADEMY, BDesh Foundation, Diyanet Center of America, ICCL, ICM, ICNA-MD, ISB, ISLAMIC BOOKSTORES.COM, ISWA, DAR-AL-TAQWA, MCC, PGMA, PIZZA ROMA, STERLING MANAGEMENT, SUBURBAN HEART INSTITUTE, and other local area businesses and institutions.

EPC ESSAY WRITING Guidelines

EPC Encourages and Promotes Capacity building of our YOUTH

Submission Deadline: Submit your [entries online](http://epc.mafiq.org/) on or before 15 **January 2018** at <http://epc.mafiq.org/>

Strictly adhere to the following guidelines

- ⦿ **DO NOT write your name or any personal information on the body of the text.** Use Times New Roman, 12 point font; no image is allowed in the text. Submit simple text only.
- ⦿ You must register. Your registration information must include: name, address, phone number, grade level, the school/College you are attending, and the organization (Islamic Center) you are representing.
- ⦿ Email submission (MS WORD Format) is **a MUST**
 - ✓ **DO NOT use multiple entries for the same submission. One essay per submission.**
 - ✓ **On the subject line mention:** EPC 2018, your level , your grade, your last name and first initial, your institution, and the name of the topics (see “sample: [essay submission email](#)”)
 - ✓ **Attach a word document following the directions given above.**
- ⦿ **Scanned submission of letter for Level I only.** Please submit your scanned letter using the jotform provided. Your letter should not exceed 3 pages. DO NOT write your name or personal information on the letter. Follow the registration information.
- ⦿ References must be cited using APA Format (<http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/01/>) - for Quran citation use (Sura #: Ayaha #), and for Hadith, use (Source, Hadith #) or APA format
- ⦿ Written statements from the parent/guardian and the author confirming that the work was primarily done by the author (Book publication requires that the work is original and their own.)
- ⦿ EPC contest is a 3-phase event: Writing, speaking, and publishing.
- ⦿ Top contestants in the Written Essay contest of each level will participate in the Speech Contest. Therefore, preparing and rephrasing the essay for the speech is highly encouraged for all participants upon completion of their essay.
- ⦿ Preregistration is required for participation in the annual EPC contest.
- ⦿ All essays, posters, and multimedia submitted for this contest become the property of Mafiq Foundation. Mafiq Foundation reserves the exclusive right to use these materials for publishing, circulating, and promotional purpose.

An honor statement stating the type of help and the level of efforts that you received from your parents, teachers or others on preparing the essay must be included. A sample honor statement is shown below.

EPC 2018 HONOR STATEMENT

Name: _____

Grade: _____

Topic: _____

This essay was researched, organized, and written by me with no help or limited help from my parents or others.

Name of Participant Date

Name of Parent

❖ Top essays and posters may get published in the EPC book, *Young Muslim Voices*, insha'Allah.

The “**FINAL EVENT**,” which includes: the Panel Discussion, if any, Speech Contest, Poster/Multi-Media Contests, and Awards Ceremony, will be held on **27 Jan, 2018, at Diyanet Center of America, Lanham, MD**, from 8:30 am to 3:45 pm, in-sha'Allah. All participants, their parents, and relatives are encouraged to attend the **Award Ceremony at 2:00 pm**. The final event is hosted by the **DCA**.

For [competition rules](#), format, [RUBRICS](#), and more [information](#) on EPC 2018, please visit <http://EPC.Mafiq.org>, or contact the EPC Coordinator by email: essays@Mafiq.org.