

**Delaware County Committee
for Integrity Enhancement**

Annual Essay Contest

**For Students in Delaware County
Elementary, Middle, and High Schools**

Cash Awards in Elementary and Middle School Divisions!

First Prize: \$250

Second Prize: \$150

Third Prize: \$100

Cash Awards in the High School Division!*

First Prize: \$1,000

Second Prize: \$500

Third Prize: \$250

*In an effort to recognize and support our high school students as they continue their education,
we will continue with the increased cash award amounts for the High School Division.*

Essay Deadline: February 10, 2025

ESSAY TOPIC:

“How does integrity help build positive relationships?”

Using the writing topic above, complete a writing activity. Feel free to incorporate ideas such as:

- *Provide examples of how you have formed personal relationships.*
- *Give examples of how others have built positive relationships.*
- *Tell why positive relationships are important.*
- *Cite research, details, or other sources to make your essay more interesting.*
- *Be sure to include a beginning, middle, and an end to your essay.*

Your writing will be scored on how clearly you write and how well you get your ideas across. Be sure to check your writing for correct grammar, spelling, punctuation, and capitalization. When you have finished, use the *Editing Checklist* below to check your essay. **Please include a total word count on your essay.**

Editing Checklist:

- 1 Have you started each sentence with a capital letter?
- 2 Have you capitalized names of people and places?
- 3 Have you used correct punctuation?
- 4 Have you spelled all words correctly?
- 5 Does the action word (verb) of your sentence agree with the subject?
- 6 Have you used the correct form of your action words (verbs)?
- 7 Have you written complete sentences?
- 8 Have you followed the guidelines for length of essay? (Include a word count.)
 - Division I (Grades 4 & 5) maximum limit of 300 words
 - Division II (Grades 6 – 8) maximum limit of 600 words
 - Division III (Grades 9 – 12) maximum limit of 1,000 words

Student Information Page (May be copied and provided to students)