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| **Competitor:** |       |
| **Chapter:** |       |
| **Submission Date:** |       |

**CONTEST RULES**

1. Competitors shall submit, with this cover sheet, an original theme of from 500 to 1,500 words on the announced subject. The essay must be typed, double-spaced, on one side of standard sized paper (8½ x 11) and must be submitted in triplicate.
2. Three judges shall be assigned to this competition. Scoring shall be determined by averaging the independent tallies of the judges. The judges may not confer on the scoring.
3. Judging shall be predicated on the following three categories:
	1. Mechanics
* Spelling
* Grammar
* Punctuation
	1. Organization
* Paragraphing
* Topic and transitional sentences
	1. Content
* Material must be at least 75% original
* All quotations and other source material must be identified as such
1. Essay Topic:
	* + **Being a member of Virginia DeMolay, what in your DeMolay experience have you learned that sets you apart from your peers in your community and in your academics?**
2. Each competitor begins with 1,000 points.
3. The word standards and a minimum of 700 points must be met to be eligible to win the competition.

**QUALIFIED PERSONS STATEMENT**

This form must be signed by a DeMolay Advisor from your chapter and submitted to the Virginia DeMolay competitions advisor as a cover sheet for any contest materials.

Individuals qualified to participate in Virginia DeMolay competitions must be DeMolays who are active members in good standing of a Virginia DeMolay chapter. They must be under 21 years of age and may only represent one chapter in a particular Virginia DeMolay competition.

I CERTIFY ON MY HONOR THAT ALL PARTS PARTICIPATING IN THIS CEREMONY ARE QUALIFIED PERSONS.

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| **Signature:** |  |
| **Printed Name:** |       |
| **Title:** |       |