

Contest topics: Please select ONE of these topics.

Climate change

The United States has the highest per capita greenhouse gas emissions in the world, contributing to a changing climate. Droughts, floods, extreme weather and other negative impacts of climate change are experienced disproportionately by citizens of countries with much smaller carbon footprints. Does the U.S. have a responsibility to aid other countries affected by the climate crisis? If so, how?

- *Understanding of the issue (40 points total)*
 - Describe how climate change impacts communities around the world, and which populations and regions are most affected. (10 points)
 - Which countries contribute the most to causing climate change? Which countries are most affected by it? (10 points)
 - Describe some global efforts to combat climate change, including international treaties or agreements and how they might help address climate change. (10 points)
 - What is the United States specifically doing to address climate change, both in the U.S. and around the world? (10 points)
- *Problem solving (40 points total)*
 - How should our Christian and Anabaptist values influence our care for creation and for people negatively impacted by climate change around the world? (10 points)
 - What additional policy measures should the United States government take to help communities around the world adapt to a changing climate? How can the United States join with other countries to address climate change across the world? (20 points)
 - How can individuals support these efforts through advocacy and with their personal lifestyle choices? (10 points)
- *Communication with Congress (10 points)*
 - **ESSAY:** Letter to Congress: Write a letter to your members of Congress encouraging them to consider your policy recommendations (maximum 200 words). Please submit as a separate page at the end of your essay.
 - **VIDEO:** Create a simple infographic that could be used on social media to promote your policy recommendations. Please submit as a separate PDF document or image file (it does not need to be incorporated into the video.)
- *Presentation/writing style (10 points) – Videos and essays will be granted up to 10 points for writing/speaking/presentation style, grammar, spelling, citation, creativity and coherency.*

Immigration

Immigration continues to be a polarizing issue in the United States. But, if we could for a moment ignore the politics and the rhetoric on both sides, what would we find at the heart of the debate? Why do people migrate to the U.S.? What factors influence this decision?

- *Understanding of the issue (40 points total)*
 - Interview a recent immigrant in your community. Why did he/she choose to come to the U.S.? What factors in his/her home country influenced this decision? What factors in the U.S.? (25 points)
 - How does this immigrant's story compare with the common reasons people migrate to the U.S. today? (5 points)
 - How does this story match up with stories of migration in the Bible? (5 points)
 - How does this immigrant's story compare with the stories of your ancestors or yourself? (5 points)
- *Problem solving (40 points total)*
 - How should our Christian and Anabaptist values influence our response to immigrants in our communities? (10 points)
 - What federal government policy changes should be made to address problems with our current immigration system? (15 points)
 - What federal government policy changes should be made in order to address the root causes of migration to the U.S.? (15 points)
- *Communication with Congress (10 points)*
 - ESSAY: Letter to Congress: Write a letter to your members of Congress encouraging them to consider your policy recommendations (maximum 200 words). Please submit as a separate page at the end of your essay.
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Selective service

The Selective Service System (SSS) was created in 1917 to increase participation in military service during wartime. It requires men to register for the military draft when they turn 18 or risk losing access to certain federal programs. Over the past 100 years, various amendments have been proposed, most recently one that would require women to also register for selective service. Since its inception, Anabaptists have challenged the SSS based on a conscientious objection to participation in military service. What is the role of Selective Service in the 21st century and how should Christians and Anabaptists engage it?

- *Understanding of the issue (40 points total)*
 - Outline Anabaptist understandings of military service as well as historical and current engagement with Selective Service. What is the theological foundation for conscientious objection? (10 points)
 - Describe the current requirement of Selective Service. How does registration happen? What are the implications of not registering? How can individuals identify as conscientious objectors? (10 points)

- National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2022 includes an amendment that would require women to register for selective service. Describe arguments for and against this provision, highlighting an Anabaptist response to the proposal. (10 points)
- What was the purpose for and proposal of the National Commission on Military, National, and Public Service? (5 points)
- In what ways does Selective Service aggravate socioeconomic, gender and racial/ethnic inequalities in the U.S.? (5 points)
- *Problem solving (40 points total)*
 - How should our Christian and Anabaptist values influence our response to Selective Service? (10 points)
 - Outline the challenges of the current SS system. What changes are being proposed to strengthen, and also to repeal, Selective Service? (10 points)
 - What federal policy changes should be made to the Selective Service System? (10 points)
 - What alternative movements and work can individuals engage in that counter Selective Service? (10 points)
- *Communication with Congress (10 points)*
 - ESSAY: Letter to Congress: Write a letter to your members of Congress encouraging them to consider your policy recommendations (maximum 200 words). Please submit as a separate page at the end of your essay.
 - VIDEO: Create a simple infographic that could be used on social media to promote your policy recommendations. Please submit as a separate PDF document or image file (it does not need to be incorporated into the video.)
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