



TEACHING HUMAN DIGNITY CONTEST

Contest Description

This contest solicits submissions that will expand the number and variety of resources available in the *Teaching Human Dignity* series. This call for proposals challenges applicants to develop instructional plans and materials that address life and human dignity to create a rich, powerful learning experience for high school students. Contest applicants will develop and submit their original instructional resource (i.e., a plan for a lesson, learning sequence, unit, and/or related materials) to reflect both the characteristics of high-quality learning and the mission of the *Teaching Human Dignity* series. Submissions must be the original work of the applicant but can be material that the applicant has developed previously and/or used in the classroom already.

Contest Overview

Round 1: Applicants submit a brief proposal that communicates their plan for developing a resource, including their particular academic subject area and specific life/human dignity issue. NOTE: While many schools teach life and dignity issues either in theology or as a stand-alone instruction, the unique approach of *Teaching Human Dignity* is to incorporate these issues across academic disciplines. Similarly, submissions should be geared for traditional academic disciplines both inside and outside of theology.

Round 2: Proposals that are favorably reviewed by contest judges will be invited to produce their instructional resource for full submission. Monetary prizes will be offered to the top three submissions. (Please see below.) All of the submissions for round two will be considered for inclusion in the *Teaching Human Dignity* series (either by direct adoption or indirect adaptation) by the Notre Dame Office of Life and Human Dignity of the McGrath Institute for Church Life.¹

Materials Suitable for Submission

Units/Lesson Plans: Provide a “blueprint” for implementing the educational experience for students that will allow them to attain specific learning goals in one or more of the academic content areas. Instructional plans will include plans (i.e., lessons, learning sequences, or units) as well as any related materials required to implement the lesson (lecture notes, student worksheets, PowerPoints, etc.)

Examples of resources can be found at mcgrath.nd.edu/liferesources.

Grade Level

Resources should be suitable for secondary education, 9th - 12th grade.

¹ All submitted material must be original. Copyright of all submitted materials will be held by the Notre Dame Office of Life and Human Dignity in the McGrath Institute for Church Life at the University of Notre Dame. This does not preclude the private use of materials in one’s own classroom. The Notre Dame Office of Life and Human Dignity reserves the right to edit materials as it deems appropriate to adhere to the teaching of the Catholic Church. The Notre Dame Office of Life and Human Dignity reserves the right to design materials to fit with the design of *Teaching Human Dignity*. Attribution will be given to the author of the original material.

Eligibility

Pre-service and in-service teachers are eligible for this competition.

Important Dates

Monday, March 22nd - First submission due by 5 p.m. EST

Tuesday, April 6th - Finalists announced

Monday, June 21st - Final submission due by 5 p.m. EST

Thursday, July 15th - Winners announced

Awards

Winning submissions will be chosen from each category for a total of 4 awards.

Unit/Lesson Plans:

Grand Prize: \$900

First Runner-up: \$500

Second Runner-up: \$350

Preliminary Proposal Submission Details

Preliminary proposals should be submitted online at mcgrath.nd.edu/contestprelim by 5 p.m. EST

Monday, March 22, 2021. Preliminary proposal submissions will require the following information:

1. Name
2. Email
3. School
4. Position
5. Pre-service or In-service
6. 250-500 word summary describing the resource that will be created
7. Subject area of proposed resource
8. Life/Human Dignity Issue
9. Submission Type
 - a. Unit/Lesson Plan
 - b. Curriculum Resource

Invited Full Submission Details

Full resource submissions should be submitted online by 5 p.m. EST Monday, June 21, 2021. Those invited to submit a full resource will be emailed the appropriate link to use for material submission. This link will be unique to the particular individual and will allow for uploads and edits until the contest deadline.

Full resource submissions will require the following components dependent on the resource type. Each numbered component should be its own uploaded file. All files should be a pdf with the potential exception of Power Points.

Unit/Lesson Plan:

1. Unit-at-a-Glance
 - a. Subject
 - b. Grade Level
 - c. Life/Human Dignity Issue
 - d. Time Requirement
 - e. Descriptors
 - f. Resources Required
 - g. Unit Description
2. Standards²
3. Key Terminology and Definitions
4. Lesson Overviews
 - a. Time Requirement
 - b. Resources Required
 - c. Lesson Description
 - d. Objectives
 - e. Instructional Model (if applicable)
5. Lesson Summaries
6. Lesson Instructional Guides
7. All other materials and resources necessary to complete your unit/lesson (i.e. worksheets, videos, references, links, etc.)

Component	Format	File Name
Unit/Lesson-at-a-Glance	PDF	UnitataGlance.pdf
Standards	PDF	Standards.pdf
Key Terminology and Definitions	PDF	Terms.pdf
Lesson Overviews	PDF	LessonOverviews.pdf
Lesson Summaries	PDF	LessonSummaries.pdf
Lesson Instructional Guides	PDF	LessonGuides.pdf
Other	dependent	Other

Indicators of a Successful Resource

- Students will be able to develop critical thinking skills.
- Teachers will be fully equipped to utilize the resources and not be required to complete hours of outside work and preparation.
- Teachers will not need to be an expert on the life/human dignity issue but have enough support and reference materials to successfully address the issue.
- Resource will help to instill a sense of hope in students rather than despair.

² Standards can include both accepted subject area standards (i.e. Common Core State Standards, Next Generation Science Standards, etc.) as well as the National Standards and Benchmarks for Effective Catholic Elementary and Secondary Schools (<https://www.catholicschoolstandards.org>)



- Resource will convey the importance of human life to students.
- Resource will cultivate students who can become advocates for life and human dignity.
- Resource will recognize the complexity of life and the multi-faceted aspects of issues of human dignity. They will not oversimplify difficult and complex issues. At the same time, truth is recognized and formation of the student is provided through the use of the materials. Students are guided to appreciate complex situations but also to understand the underlying truths concerning human dignity and the value of life.
- Appropriate references are provided
- Resource is clearly focused on addressing a limited selection of curriculum standards and effectively addresses these standards.
- Resource involves students in meaningful learning experiences.
- Resource utilizes instructional experiences and pedagogy that are appropriate to the specific content area and learners involved.
- Resource accurately presents content.
- Resource presents content in a rich multidimensional way that challenges all students to deepen and extend learning.
- Students are challenged to consider and assess their own learning and growth in thinking/understanding.

Review Criteria

Preliminary Proposal:

Preliminary proposals will be reviewed based on the following questions:

1. Is the submission complete and does it follow the guidelines?
2. Does the proposed resource address a life/human dignity issue?
3. Is the proposed resource appropriate for secondary education?
4. Is the proposed resource appropriate for the chosen subject area?
5. Does the proposed resource have the potential to engage students in critical thinking?
6. Does the proposed resource have the potential to adequately address the complexity of life/human dignity issues or does it unnecessarily oversimplify or polarize an issue?

Invited Full Submission:

Full submissions will be reviewed based on the following questions:

- Is the submission complete and does it follow the guidelines?
- Does the resource address a life/human dignity issue?
- Is the resource appropriate for secondary education?
- Is the resource appropriate for the chosen subject area?
- Does the resource have the potential to engage students in critical thinking?
- Does the resource have the potential to adequately address the complexity of life/human dignity issues or does it unnecessarily oversimplify or polarize an issue?
- Do the teacher notes and/or discussion notes allow a teacher without a particular expertise to successfully teach the unit/lesson or curriculum resource without requiring significant outside preparation?
 - Do all discussion questions have accompanying teacher notes/answers?
 - Do all worksheets or student assignments have accompanying answer keys/grading rubrics?



- Does the resource provide students with the necessary information/experience to fulfill stated objectives and standards?
- Is the content presented in a way that will be engaging for students?
- Are all of the necessary materials to teach the unit/lesson or curriculum resource included in the submission?
- Are appropriate references provided?

Subject Areas

The subject areas include the following:

1. Science
2. Social Studies
 - a. This includes the social sciences such as sociology, psychology, economics, anthropology
3. Language Arts
4. Mathematics
5. Business/Technology
6. Fine Arts/Film
7. Health/Wellness
8. Religion/Theology
9. Philosophy

Life/Human Dignity Issues

The Life/Human Dignity Issues include the following

1. Abortion
2. Euthanasia/Physician Assisted Suicide
3. Reproductive Technology (i.e. Stem Cell Research, Cloning, CRISPR)
4. Death Penalty
5. Immigration
6. Human Trafficking
7. Integral Ecology
8. Technology (i.e. Artificial Intelligence)
9. Poverty
10. War and Conflict
11. Racism/Discrimination (i.e. Special Needs/Disabilities)
12. Human Sexuality (i.e. Contraception, Pornography, Transgender)
13. Mental Health/Suicide
14. Other

Method of Submission

Preliminary proposals should be submitted online at mcgrath.nd.edu/contestprelim by 5 p.m. EST Monday, March 22, 2021. Full resource submissions should be submitted online by 5 pm EST Monday, June 21, 2021. Those invited to submit a full resource will be emailed the appropriate link to use for material submission.



Format of Submission

All materials should be in PDF format unless submitting a video or image. See “Invited Full Submission Details” for more details on format and naming convention.

Copyright

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Teaching Human Dignity series

Respect for the sanctity of life and the dignity of each human person is the foundation of a just society. Students in high school classrooms naturally want to engage fundamental questions of life--especially as they relate to human dignity issues. However, learning experiences that enable this are often avoided because they are deemed too difficult or controversial.

Teaching Human Dignity is a collection of free, high-quality instructional resources available at: mcgrath.nd.edu/resources. These resources provide teachers the support they need to successfully address life and human dignity issues as they occur organically across the various academic content areas. By implementing these resources, teachers and their students benefit from formational learning experiences that equip students to positively influence society and instill hope in others. Students who engage with *Teaching Human Dignity* resources not only master content-area standards but also learn how to think about complex issues and develop creative responses that promote a culture of life.

Sponsoring Organization

The Notre Dame Office of Life and Human Dignity, McGrath Institute for Church Life, University of Notre Dame

Contact

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