

PREPARED ESSAY/ORIGINAL ORATORY PROMPTS

Use the following prompts to help compose an insightful and compelling prepared essay or oratory on the topic of this year's theme. Your submission may take the form of a personal narrative, academic dissertation, or persuasive argument. Please note that the Short Fiction competition would be used for fictional narratives.

"Truly, God does not look at your outward forms and wealth, but rather at your hearts and your deeds."

-Prophet Muhammad, peace be upon him

إنما الأعمال بالنيات

Innama al-a'mālo bin-niyyāt.

"Actions are judged by intentions."

الدين النصيحة

Ad-dīn an-nasīha.

"The religion is sincerity (or sincere advice)."

What does sincerity mean when the word *nasīha* (نصيحة) is used?

What does sincerity mean when the word *sidq* (صدق) is used?

What does sincerity mean when the word *ikhlas* (إخلاص) is used?

What does sincerity mean when the word *ihtisāb* (إحتساب) is used?

The word *qalb* means heart or soul. In what ways does it have a distinct meaning from the words *nafs* or *rūh* in the Arabic language? What do the differences reveal about the concept of keeping a heart true?

What quotes from outside the Islamic faith ring true to you regarding sincerity? Why? How do they compare or contrast to the concepts within Islam?

