

# Voices for Life

CHALLENGE | 2026

## 3 Entry Options

- Create a Print Ad 
- Write a 30-second Radio Ad
- Submit an Original Essay

**Deadline: May 22, 2026**

Sponsored by: Vitae Foundation & Alphonse J. Schwartze Community Foundation

Osage County's youth can use this platform to affirm the belief that all human life is valuable and should be respected.

Students can communicate their convictions about life issues such as abortion, bullying, euthanasia, capital punishment, human trafficking, suicide or human abuse/neglect.

## Osage County Day at the Ballpark

Saturday, July 25, 2026 at 6:15 PM  
Cincinnati Reds vs. Cardinals

### Prizes Include:

#### 4 Game Tickets

For the first 125 qualifying entries

#### 4 Box Seat Tickets

For 13 individual class winners

#### 4 Ceremonial First Pitch Opportunities

For 3 Grand Prize Winners and 1 Teacher  
Includes autographed baseball and professional photo

#### 1 \$250 Gift Card Drawing for Qualified Student Entry

For educational technology (i.e. iPad or laptop)

#### 1 \$100 Gift Card Drawing for Qualified Teacher

Each teacher with a qualifying student will be entered

#### All-Star Staff Challenge for Teachers and Principals

For Grand Prize Winners' Teachers and Principals and the teacher with the most submissions  
Includes Luxury Suite with food and beverage



The challenge is open to 7th-12th grade Osage County students.  
See rules for more info

# Voices for Life Challenge 2026

Sponsored by:

Vitae Foundation & Alphonse J. Schwartze Community Foundation

## Who can enter?

1. The challenge is open to 2025-26 school year students, including:

### 7th - 12th Grade Students at

Osage County R-III (Fatima), Westphalia

Osage County R-II, Linn

Osage County R-I, Chamois

Students residing in Osage County who attend a school outside the county (i.e., Helias Catholic) or Osage County homeschool students

### 7th – 8th Grade Students at

St. Joseph Catholic School, Westphalia

Sacred Heart School, Rich Fountain

Immaculate Conception School, Loose Creek

Holy Family School, Freeburg

St. George School, Linn

St. Mary School, Frankenstein

2. Contestants must be residents of Osage County, Missouri.

## About the Challenge

1. Contestants must compose an original entry about life issues such as abortion, bullying, euthanasia, capital punishment, human trafficking, suicide, or human abuse or neglect. No reference can be made in the entry that will identify the contestant beyond the listing of the required submission information online.
2. Since entries are to be written/designed about life issues, the content may be primarily opinion oriented and (Essays only) if a student cites a source, it must be identified. Failure to cite sources will result in disqualification.
3. Essays must be between 500-1,000 words.
4. Radio ads must be 30-seconds in length.
5. Print ads must be a High Quality PDF with 300 dpi and 7.25 inches wide by 9 inches high.
6. Major League Baseball, St. Louis Cardinals, and Vitae prohibit the use of harsh language in radio ads, i.e. abortion, kill, death, etc., and reserve the right to make substitutions to align the ad with current research and best practices. Also the use of graphic images (i.e. remains of an aborted baby, etc.) is prohibited in the print ad and does not align with current research and best practices.

7. All-Star Staff Challenge for Teachers and Principals of Grand Prize Winners **and** for the teacher whose class has the most submissions based on percentage of students in their class (includes Luxury Suite with food and beverage)

## Submission Rules

1. All student entries should be submitted online at [vitaefoundation.org/challenge](https://vitaefoundation.org/challenge) by using the "I'm a student" button. **Only one PDF file** is allowed for each entry.
2. All teachers may submit their contact information once online for all student entries by using the "I'm a teacher" button. Email [contest@vitaefoundation.org](mailto:contest@vitaefoundation.org) for questions or special conditions.
3. Cell phone numbers and personal, summertime email addresses for parents, teachers, and principals are **REQUIRED** so Grand Prize and Box Seat Ticket winners can be notified and game tickets can be emailed.
4. All contact information will remain confidential.
5. Eligible contestants may submit only one essay OR one script OR one print ad for this competition.



## Deadlines

**May 22, 2026** by midnight the entry must arrive in the online portal at [vitaefoundation.org/challenge](https://vitaefoundation.org/challenge).

**June 26, 2026** ticket winners will be notified. Parents or guardians of students whose entry won for their grade level and who are eligible to win the Grand Prizes will be notified.

**July 8, 2026** Grand prize winners will be contacted. Parents, teachers, and principals of the Grand Prize winners will be notified.

**July 11, 2026 or before** game tickets will be sent via USPS to the first 125 qualifying entries.

**July 20, 2026** - If the Essay, Radio Ad or Print Ad Grand Prize Winner is unable to attend and participate in the opening pitch ceremony on Saturday, July 25, 2026, the next highest scoring entry will be named "Alternate Winner" and make the opening pitch. The Grand Prize Winner will then receive tickets to another game to be agreed upon by the parents or guardians and the Cardinals. Opportunity to throw out an opening pitch may be forfeited.

**July 20, 2026** Last day to notify Vitae that tickets weren't received. You may inquire by email to [contest@vitaefoundation.org](mailto:contest@vitaefoundation.org) and "Ticket Inquiry" must be referenced in the subject line.

## To Qualify:

Osage County resident

Student Grade 7-12 in 2025-26 school year

Cite sources including photos or artwork, if used

Submit entry online at [vitaefoundation.org/challenge](http://vitaefoundation.org/challenge)

500-1,000 word Essay length OR

30-second Radio Ad length OR

300 dpi 7.25 x 9 inch PDF Print Ad

Submitted as PDF only

Entry arrives by midnight May 22, 2026

Not an immediate family member of the Alphonse J. Schwartze Foundation selection committee or Vitae Foundation staff.

## Words for Success

Vitae Foundation's research tells us the words we choose are very important. They can even be lifesaving if delivered with love, compassion and lack of judgment. Therefore, some words are more successful in reaching others. Our research has shown the following verbiage to be successful:

unexpected pregnancy	preborn
pregnancy center	pro-life
placing a child for adoption	baby
lifesaving	pro-woman



## Radio Ad Tips for Success

Radio Ad submissions should:

- Be 30-seconds in length
- Be written about the topic of abortion
- Include the call to action to visit [talkprolife.org](http://talkprolife.org) at the end of the ad
- Be woman-focused

Here are some examples of ads:

*Today's culture tells women that when they are unexpectedly pregnant that they won't be able to do it, that they are failures, that it isn't the right time, or that it's going to be hard. Since when do we give up when life gets tough? It's time to empower women, and change the culture and show her how strong and successful she really is. For more information visit [talk pro-life dot org](http://talk-pro-life-dot-org). That's talk pro-life dot org.*

*Our culture always encourages perseverance in the face of adversity. But why do some women face judgment and pressure to give up when they become pregnant? Shouldn't we provide them with the support and options they need to navigate the journey of motherhood with dignity? It's time to uplift and honor women. Think about it. Visit [talkprolife.org](http://talkprolife.org) for more information.*



## Print Ad Tips for Success

Print Ad submissions should:

- Be original. Draw, paint, color on paper or digitally.
- Start with high quality graphics or artwork that is yours or you have permission to use.
- Be 7.25 in. wide by 9 in. high
- Include permissions and sources of artwork or photos
- Be a High Quality PDF with at least 300 dpi resolution
- Include the call to action to visit [talkprolife.org](http://talkprolife.org)

## How are winners decided?

1. Judging will be completed by a group of educators and community leaders.
2. Essays, Radio Ads, and Print Ads will be scored on originality, creativity, cohesiveness, grammar, and development of theme.

## Other notes

1. Tickets are traceable and specific to this challenge; therefore, no tickets can be sold on any social media sites (Facebook, etc.) or third-party companies (Stubhub, etc.).
2. Immediate family of the Alphonse J. Schwartze Foundation selection committee and Vitae Foundation staff are prohibited from participating in this challenge.
3. Vitae Foundation will have the right to publish or otherwise duplicate any entry in the challenge, along with the contestant's name, without payment to the contestant.
4. The author of the winning radio script can, but is not required to, record the ad at Learfield Communications in Jefferson City or an alternate studio. Cardinals' broadcaster Ricky Horton will open the radio ad with the student's name and that he or she wrote and voiced the script and is a winner of the challenge. The author's ad will air twice during the game on Cardinals Radio Network and in-stadium during the ceremonial opening pitch presentation.

For more information, call Stacey Kromer or Cindy Soule at 573.634.4316 or email [contest@vitaefoundation.org](mailto:contest@vitaefoundation.org) and reference "CHALLENGE" in the subject line.