



WSPTA Men's Essay Contest Promotion Ideas

1. Have entry forms available and visible at your school for students to grab (the library is often a good spot or on your PTA bulletin board).
2. Start promoting before winter break so students can work on their essays during the break.
3. Can be a class writing prompt. Let your teachers know about the program. They are often looking for topic ideas for writing assignments.
 - essays can be written in school
 - essays submitted for contest cannot be edited by teachers in any way
 - pictures or drawings may be included in the essay but are not required
4. Local PTAs can submit the essays for their students but must include completed entry forms. Entries due to WSPTA office on March 1, 2019 (must be postmarked by).

Divisions:

✓ **Special Author – Elementary** (Kindergarten - 5th grade)

✓ **Special Author – Secondary** (6th – 12th grade)

The Special Author division is an option for students with disabilities who receive services under IDEA or Section 504 to have the opportunity and accommodations they may need in order to participate fully in the program. <https://sites.ed.gov/idea/about-idea>

- The Special Author division offers modified guidelines to ensure that every student has the chance to be part of the program.
- Essays can be dictated/written via adaptive technology or PECS cards and printed by a helper for the special author. If other accommodations are needed for submissions, please contact the essay chair at email listed below. **PECS** stands for Picture Exchange Communication System. It is an alternative communication system developed to help children affected by autism convey their thoughts and needs.

✓ **Kindergarten**

✓ **Grades 1 & 2**

✓ **Grades 3 - 5**

✓ **Grades 6 - 8**

✓ **Grades 9 - 12**

Winning authors will be invited to attend the Programs Award Ceremony.

For more information or questions, contact Laura Peterson, Men's Essay Chair,

MensEssay@wastatepta.org