

Student name: _____ Grade: _____

Division (please circle one): Kindergarten 1st - 2nd 3rd - 5th 6th - 8th 9th - 12th
Special Author-Elem. (K - 5th) Special Author-Secondary (6th - 12th)

PTA name and #: _____ Essay word count: _____

WSPTA Essay Contest – People Making a Difference in Children’s Lives

This program is a statewide essay contest that explores the important and different contributions that inspirational people make in the lives and education of children – from our children’s perspective. All people involved in a child’s life – relatives, foster parents, mentors, neighbors, community members, and friends – impact the children they care about. Research clearly shows that encouraging involvement positively influences academic success at all levels of schooling (preschool through college) and accomplishments outside of school.

ALL ESSAYS SHOULD BE SCORED WITH GRADE LEVEL APPROPRIATE EXPECTATIONS

CONTENT (0-10 points each, up to 40 points total in this section)

- _____ Essay identifies the topic and demonstrates understanding of the topic
- _____ Essay maintains focus on the topic
- _____ Essay has personal details, examples, descriptions, anecdotes, or other evidence to support
- _____ Essay is properly developed (character, setting, events, etc.)

ORGANIZATION (0-10 points each, up to 20 points total in this section)

- _____ Essay has a clear introduction and conclusion and was well laid out
- _____ Essay is structured well and has strong transitions/linking words between paragraphs

LANGUAGE/CONVENTIONS (0-10 points each, up to 20 points total in this section)

- _____ Essay has grade level appropriate capitalization, punctuation, verb tenses, and spelling
- _____ Essay has grade level appropriate grammar and word choice/variety

STYLE (0-10 points each, up to 20 points total in this section)

- _____ Essay captures the interest of the reader
- _____ Subjective judge points

_____ **TOTAL POINTS (Maximum 100 points)**