WSPTA Essay Contest – Judging Form

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)