

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

This statewide essay contest explores the important and varied influencers in the lives and education of children – from our children’s perspective. Every day children are exposed to a variety of people and each one has an opportunity to influence the path a child decides to take. Whether it is someone that sparks an interest in a new topic, helps them work through a problem, shapes the kind of person they want to become by modeling behavior, simply listens to them, or any number of other actions, this is the platform for students to share their appreciation (must be a real person, not a fictional character). This contest has multiple age divisions and reaches out to every local PTA, council, and region.

- Essays will be scored on the current state learning standards for writing. Essays will be scored on content, organization, language/conventions, and style per the program judging form.
- Deadline for submissions: **submitted no later than March 1, 2021.**
- Entries must include completed and signed entry form, typed or handwritten legibly on an 8 1/2" x 11" piece of paper and be no more than 650 words.
- Essays will not be returned, please keep a copy for your records.
- One entry per student, multiple entries from one student will be disqualified.
- Students can only win once in each category.
- Open to students in K-12. (Young authors get involved through their local PTA or PTSA.)
- Each entry must be an original, not written by a parent or professional, has not previously won a prize and does not infringe the copyright or other proprietary rights of any third party.

Objective:

The contest is for students of all ages to write an essay about an influential role model that has had a profound impact on their life. The objective is to help celebrate the people that are most important in influencing the lives of children around the state of Washington.

When writing their essays, students can consider many questions including (but not limited to):

- Why is this role model important in your life?
- What life lessons, ethics, or skills has this influential role model taught you?
- Why do you look up to this role model and appreciate having him or her in your life?
- How would your life be different without this role model?
- How would other kids benefit from having a similar role model in their life?

Divisions:

For details on each division, visit the [WSPTA website](#).

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| ✓ Special Author – Elementary division (kindergarten - 5 th grade)* | ✓ Special Author – Secondary division (6 th – 12 th grade)* |
| ✓ Kindergarten | ✓ Grades 9 - 12 |
| ✓ Grades 1 - 2 | |
| ✓ Grades 3 - 5 | |
| ✓ Grades 6 - 8 | *special author is an option for students with disabilities per IDEA or Section 504) |

APPLICATION:

Student first & last name:				Student grade level:	
Division (please circle one):	<input type="checkbox"/> Special Author-Elementary	<input type="checkbox"/> Kindergarten	<input type="checkbox"/> Grades 3-5		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Special Author – Secondary	<input type="checkbox"/> Grades 1-2	<input type="checkbox"/> Grades 6-8		
			<input type="checkbox"/> Grades 9-12		
Essay word count (650-word maximum):			Have you entered before?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
Student address:					
Student city & zip code:			Student phone number:		
School name:			School city:		
PTA/PTSA name:			PTA/PTSA#:		
Parent/Guardian first & last name:					
Parent/Guardian email:			Parent/Guardian phone:		
Parent/Guardian signature:					

*** By participating in this program and submitting this application, you are allowing WSPTA to use the student information, student image, essay, and video recording of student reading their essay in all publications that pertain to WSPTA. This includes, but is not limited to, posting on the WSPTA website and social media pages. All essays become the property of WSPTA and will not be returned. Submission of an essay constitutes acceptance of all rules and conditions.**

Mailing Information: Washington State PTA
 Attention: WSPTA Essay Contest
15 Oregon Avenue, #202, Tacoma, Washington 98409-7463
 ☎ 253-214-7410 ✉ WSPTAEssay@wastatepta.org

Postmark Deadline: March 1, 2021

Please keep a copy for your records (paper and electronic if possible).