

1. Start promoting before winter break so students could work on their essays during the time off. Be mindful of when your PTA's Reflections entries are due and advertise this contest after.
2. Have entry forms and rules available for your students. If your school is fully remote this year, advertise on your social media pages and websites. See if your admin will send the information about the program out to all the students via school mass email. You can also refer to the WSPTA website for all information, <https://www.wastatepta.org/events-programs/pta-essay-contest>.
3. Can be a class writing prompt. Let your teachers know about the program. They are often looking for topic ideas for writing assignments.

Please note:

- 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. Entries are due by **March 1** each year. Entries are submitted by the online form.

Divisions:

Kindergarten

Grades 1 & 2

Grades 3 - 5

Grades 6 - 8

Grades 9 - 12

Special Author – Elementary (Kindergarten - 5th grade)

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

- 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.

Winning authors will be invited to record the reading of their essay to include on the [WSPTA Student Showcase page](#).

For more information or questions, contact the WSPTA Essay Chair, WSPTAEssay@wastatepta.org.

