



Essay Contest

WSPTA Essay Contest Promotion Ideas

1. Have entry flyers available and visible at your school for students to grab (library is often a good spot or on your PTA bulletin board). Make sure they know your PTA name and number!
2. Start promotion before winter break so students can work on their essays during the break.
3. Advertise to your Teachers- 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 or parents 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. Local PTAs and Councils are encouraged to help advertise the program and encourage their students to participate!
5. All submissions must be completed online at https://wspta.smapply.io/prog/student_awards_programs/ Deadline is March 12, 2026 at 10pm.

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 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 essay@wastatepta.org. 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 record the reading of their essays on the WSPTA Essay Page. They will also be invited to participate in the WSPTA Student Celebration.

For more information or questions, contact Essay Chair, essay@wastatepta.org or visit the essay webpage at <https://www.wastatepta.org/events-programs/pta-essay-contest/>