The Local PTA Leader's Guide

Citizenship Writing Program

Kansas PTA is proud to sponsor, support and encourage our students in grades 5-12 to write an essay or poem on the selected theme for the Citizenship Writing Program. This theme changes every year and encourages students to think about Citizenship in a broad sense.

December 5 is the recommended **school deadline** for entries.
This will allow time for you to have the work judged and the winners to be submitted to the state.

January 15 is the **deadline for the winners to be submitted to your council PTA (if applicable).**
Check with your Council PTA.

February 15 is the **deadline for winners to be submitted to the STATE PTA.** Digital files only will be collected through a Google Drive site (TBA) or send to ksartsawards@gmail.com

Spring Kansas PTA will host an awards ceremony in the Spring, recognizing Reflections and Citizenship Winners. Date to be announced.

Additional Resources:
https://kansas-pta.org/programs/arts-awards/ https://www.smac-pta.org/reflections
And we're here to help in any way we can! Feel free to contact us with question
ksartsawards@gmail.com

KANSAS PTA
CITIZENSHIP
WRITING PROGRAM

The entry categories for each grade level in the Citizenship Writing Program are:



POETRY



ESSAY

General Participation Rules

1. Theme
Only new pieces of literature inspired by the theme are acceptable.

2. Student Eligibility through Local PTAs
Students must participate in the Citizenship Program through local PTA/PTSAs in good standing or through the Kansas PTA Golden Oaks PTA. Parent groups not affiliated with the Kansas PTA association are not eligible to sponsor this program. It is the responsibility of the local and council PTA/PTSA to determine each student's eligibility in the Citizenship program.

3. Eligible Grades
Student in grades 5 through 12 may participate in the Citizenship Writing Program.

4. Categories
Students may submit an entry in poetry and/or essay. The Kansas PTA does not limit the number of entries a student may submit.

5. Children with Disabilities
PTA believes that each child with a disability should be provided a free and appropriate public education. Therefore, the Citizenship Program does not have a special category for students with disabilities. Further information regarding students can be found in the Poetry and Essay rules.

6. Deadlines
Each student must submit their entry by the deadline established by their local PTA/PTSA. Each local PTA/PTSA sponsoring the program will set a deadline for entries in adherence with the Council, Region and State deadlines. These entries are judged and selected entries are forwarded to the next level of judging by the appropriate deadline.

7. Judging
All entries are judged on originality, organization, support of thought and relevance to the theme. each PTA determines its own judges for the program. Under no conditions may parents or students contact he judges to dispute the status of the entry.
All judges' decisions are final.

8. Award Recipient Notification
All local, council and regional PTA/PTSAs are responsible for notifying students if their entry has received an award at their level of judging. The Kansas PTA Arts in Education Chairman will notify in writing the state level award recipients.

Poetry and Essay Rules

Students must adhere to the general participation rule as well as following Poetry and Essay rules.

1. The entry must relate to the current Citizenship Program Theme.
Whether an entry uses a variety of techniques or a simple approach, it will be judged primarily on how well the student portray the theme. A well-developed concept is more important than technique.

2. Each entry must b the original work of one student only.
An adult may not alter the creative integrity of a student's work. Because the program is designed to encourage student creativity, help from an adult or collaboration with other students is not allowed.

3. Plagiarized entries will be disqualified and returned to the student.
Plagiarism is defined as "to steal and pass off [the ideas or words of another] as one's own; use without crediting source. (https://www.merrieam-webster.com/dictionary/plagiarized).

4. All participants are required to fill out in its entirety and sign the Student Participation Form.
Students who have not completely filled out the entry form will not be eligible to participate in the program. In situations where the child cannot fill out the entry form or write legibly, a parent may sign his or her child's name. If the form is submitted electronically, the local chair or PTA representative can elect to accept forms without a signature.

5. Poetry entries must be a least 50 words, but may not exceed 500 words. Essay entries must be at least 200 words but may not exceed 1000 words.
Entries may be handwritten or typed. Pages should be numbered. Entries are to reflect grade-appropriate grammar and spelling.

6. Submit entries on any kind of paper, not to exceed 8 1/2 by 11 inches in size.
Entries that are multiple pages must be submitted on one side of the paper only. Write the student's name on the back of each page in case pages become separated. Students may have their entry typed by another person as long as the original work or copy of the original work is attached.

7. Student who are physically challenged may dictate to another person who may type or write down the original work.
Transcribers should make every attempt to retain the same level of language and accuracy that is reflected in the students' original work.

8. Student for whom English is not their first language may submit entries in their own language.
An interpretive translation must accompany the entry. Translators should make every attempt to retain the same level of language and accuracy that is reflected in the students' original work.