

## Frequently Asked Contest Questions (students)

### General Questions about the Poster & Writing Contests

**Q. What are the Contest Topics?**

A. MWRA at 40!

**Q. What are the categories?**

A. In the poster contest there are (4) categories Gr. K-2, 3-5, 6-8 and 9-12. In the writing contest there are (2) categories Gr. 3-5 and 6-8.

**Q. What are the prizes?**

A. 1<sup>st</sup> place prize in each category is a \$100.00 gift card, 2<sup>nd</sup> place prize is a \$50.00 gift card, and 3<sup>rd</sup> place prize is a \$25.00 gift card. In each of the (6) categories there is a 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, and (4) honorable mention winners. Everyone who enters the contest will receive a Certificate of Participation – suitable for framing!

**Q. What information needs to be included with my poster or writing entry?**

A. All poster and writing entries must have a completed Student Label attached to the back of the entry. Labels must be completed in full and should be securely taped or glued to the back of the entry. Please **Do NOT** use staples or paper clips to attach the student label. Please **Do NOT** attach labels to the front of the entries. You may create your own label or neatly write information on the back of your entry as long as all the information requested on the student label is included.

**Q. Where do I get a Student Label?**

A. Ask your teacher for one or you can download labels from our School Program webpage.

**Q. May I submit more than one entry?**

A. You may only submit one entry in each contest. If you are in Grade 3-8, you may participate in both the poster and writing contests.

**Q. Can groups of students work together?**

A. Only individual work will be accepted for posters and writing entries.

**Q. If my class isn't participating can I participate on my own?**

A. Yes, but please be sure to complete and include a student label.

**Q. Will my entry be returned?**

A. Posters will only be returned if requested. Writing entries will not be returned.

**Q. What is the contest deadline?**

A. Entries must be **postmarked** by Tuesday March 12, 2025

**Q. How will I be notified if I win?**

A. If you are a winner, your teacher will be notified sometime in April 2025. If you include your guardian information on the student label, we will contact your guardian as well.

**Questions about the Poster Contest**

**Q. What is the poster topics?**

A. The topic for all 4 poster categories (Gr. K-2, Gr. 3-5, Gr. 6-8 and Gr. 9-12) is MWRA at 40! – highlighting one or more projects that MWRA has been involved with since its creation in 1985.

**Q. What makes a good poster?**

A. Make sure your poster is on topic. Don't try to include too many ideas or activities on your poster. A single message, clearly illustrated, is more effective. If you use lettering, make sure it can be read from across the room. Please check your spelling!

**Q. Do posters have to be drawings?**

A. No, posters can be any form of art you choose to express the topic. You can create a collage with pictures cut out of a magazine, you can use pieces of fabric or you can create a drawing using markers, crayons, paints, or charcoal. We are looking for unique and creative works of art. Please no 3-D models that would be unable to mail.

**Q. Are there size requirements for the posters?**

A. **YES** - Posters must be no smaller than **8.5" X 11"** and no bigger than **18" X 24"**. Posters smaller or bigger than these requirements will **NOT** be judged. Be sure to attach a Student Label to the back of your poster.

**Q. How will my poster be judged?**

A. MWRA staff will select the strongest posters from the entries in each category. Then a panel of judges will score the posters on originality, clarity of message, creative and artistic use of materials, and quality of work.

**Questions about the Writing Contest**

**Q. What is the writing topic?**

A. The topic for both categories (Gr. 3-5 and Gr. 6-8) is MWRA at 40! - highlighting one or more projects that MWRA has been involved with since its creation in 1985.

**Q. What makes a good writing entry?**

- A.** First, be sure your entry is on topic. As good as a piece might be, if it isn't on topic, it can't win a prize. Then, use your creativity to make your entry stand out. The reader should remember your work because there was something unique about it. An essay can be just as creative as a poem or dialogue, if it has a clear theme and develops it cleverly.

**Q. How long should my writing entry be?**

- A.** Writing entries are limited to two pages. Entries may be written neatly in ink or done on the computer. Please use only one side of the paper and be sure to attach a Student Label securely to the back of your entry.

**Q. How will my writing entry be judged?**

- A.** MWRA staff will select the best entries in each category. Copies will be given to a judging panel, which will first read and rate them and then meet to decide the winners. Writing entries will be judged on factual accuracy, creativity, originality and persuasiveness.