



ALISON LUNDERGAN GRIMES
SECRETARY OF STATE

COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Kentucky Educators
FROM: Secretary of State Alison Lundergan Grimes
SUBJECT: 2016-2017 28th Annual Essay and Slogan Contest

For the past 27 years, the Office of the Secretary of State has held a statewide Essay and Slogan Contest for Kentucky students. The discourse this contest stimulates among students is all the more important in light of waning voter participation in the youngest demographics. The contest is an excellent way to garner recognition for your students, and it helps them become involved and familiar with government and democracy.

Students in grades 6-8 are invited to participate in the voter slogan contest, and students in grades 9-12 are encouraged to take part in the essay portion of the contest. I encourage you to distribute the web address listed below and use this project in your classes or with individual students to generate cross-curriculum writing ideas.

Prizes will be awarded for first, second, and third places in the slogan contest. In the essay contest, a first-place prize will be awarded for each high school grade level. In addition, **a \$500 prize will be awarded to the school that has the highest participation rate.**

The monetary awards for contest winners are made possible by contributions from KEA and KEA Retired, the University of Kentucky Scripps Howard First Amendment Center, the Kentucky Department of Education, and Harp Enterprises, Inc. The University of Kentucky Scripps Howard First Amendment Center also will judge the essay portion of the contest. I am grateful to our partners for their generous sponsorships of this program.

<p>SLOGAN CONTEST (Grades 6-8)</p> <p>1st Prize: \$1000 Cash 2nd Prize: \$600 Cash 3rd Prize: \$400 Cash</p>		<p>ESSAY CONTEST (Grades 9-12)</p> <p>9th Grade: \$1000 Cash 10th Grade: \$1000 Cash 11th Grade: \$1000 Cash 12th Grade: \$1000 Cash</p>	

The Essay Contest prompt, rules, rubric, and entry form are attached to this Memorandum. Please visit www.sos.ky.gov/contests for further information and guidelines for the 2016-2017 Essay and Slogan Contest. All guidelines must be met for any entry to be considered by contest judges, and all entries must be electronically submitted by 5 p.m. (EST) December 16, 2016, or postmarked by that date. I hope you will share this information with any faculty you feel may benefit from it.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Jacob Ewing in my office at jacob.ewing@ky.gov or 502-564-3490. Thank you, and good luck to all of your students!



Slogan Contest Rules and Prompt
28th Annual Slogan and Essay Contest
Secretary of State Alison Lundergan Grimes

1. The slogan contest is open to all Kentucky students in grades 6-8.
2. Slogan entry is limited to one per student.
3. Students must submit their slogans on the enclosed entry form. All sections of the entry form must be completed.
4. Students may submit their slogans online at www.sos.ky.gov/contests or by mail to the address below.
5. All entries must be submitted electronically by 5 p.m. (EST) Friday, December 16, 2016, or postmarked by that date.
6. Entries become the property of the Kentucky Secretary of State's Office and may be used for other purposes with credit to the author. Winning entries will be posted on the Secretary of State's website and may be used for other civic-related material.
7. All guidelines must be met for any entry to be considered by contest judges.

Slogan Prompt: Write a slogan that addresses the importance of voting, voter registration, and/or elections in Kentucky.

For judging purposes, the slogan must be an attention-getting word or phrase that expresses the importance of eligible Kentuckians participating in local, state, and national elections by registering and going to the polls, or the democratic freedom of participating in elections.

Mail entries to: ATTN: Slogan and Essay Contest
 Office of the Secretary of State
 Suite 152, State Capitol
 700 Capital Avenue
 Frankfort, KY 40601

Entries may also be submitted online at www.sos.ky.gov/contests.

Note: Family members of employees of the Office of the Secretary of State or the State Board of Elections are not eligible to enter the Slogan Contest.



**28TH ANNUAL ESSAY AND SLOGAN CONTEST
SECRETARY OF STATE ALISON LUNDERGAN GRIMES**

SLOGAN CONTEST ENTRY FORM

Submit this form with your entry. All sections must be completed. If you choose to submit your slogan online at www.sos.ky.gov/contests, you do not need to mail in your entry form.

_____ Name	_____ School
_____ Home Address	_____ School Address
_____ City, State & Zip	_____ City, State & Zip
_____ Home Phone Number	_____ School Phone Number
_____ Grade	_____ Principal
_____ Student Signature	_____ Sponsoring School Official Signature
_____ Date	_____ Date

Write or type your slogan here (if you need additional space, please continue on the back of this page):

All entries must be electronically submitted by 5 p.m. (EST) December 16, 2016, or postmarked by that date.

A special thanks to KEA and KEA Retired, the University of Kentucky Scripps Howard First Amendment Center, Kentucky Department of Education, and Harp Enterprises, Inc., for sponsoring this contest.