

MEMORANDUM

TO: Kentucky Educators

FROM: Secretary of State Michael G. Adams

SUBJECT: 2023 Essay and Slogan Contest

Kentucky Secretary of State Michael G. Adams announces a statewide essay contest for students in grades 9 through 12, and a statewide slogan contest for grades 6-8. The Secretary of State will award prizes and recognize winners in a public ceremony.

Secretary Adams encourages all eligible students to demonstrate their commitment to active citizenship by participating in the contest. Secretary Adams appreciates the partnership of sponsors willing to invest in the next generation of Kentucky's leaders.

Students in grades 6-8 are invited to participate in the slogan contest, and students in grades 9-12 are encouraged to take part in the essay 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.

A prize will be awarded for first place in the slogan contest. In the essay contest, a first-place prize will be awarded for each high school grade level.

The Essay Contest prompt, rules, and entry form are attached to this Memorandum. Please visit sos.ky.gov/sos-office/Pages/essayslogan.aspx for further information and guidelines for the 2023 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) Wednesday, January 31, 2024 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 Haley Day in my Office at haley.day@ky.gov or 502-782-7418. Thank you, and good luck to all of your students!

Secretary of State Michael G. Adams
Essay and Slogan Contest Rules

1. The Essay Contest is open to all Kentucky high school students in grades 9-12.
2. The Slogan Contest is open to all Kentucky middle school students in grades 6-8.
3. Entries are limited to one per student. Previous contest entries will not be accepted.
4. Essay entries may not exceed 1,000 words. All entries must be typed and double-spaced.
5. Student and school names may not appear anywhere in the body of the essay or slogan.
6. Essays may be submitted either online at sos.ky.gov/sos-office/Pages/essayslogan.aspx or by mail to the address below. Essays submitted online must be in Microsoft Word format.
ATTN: Essay and Slogan Contest
Office of the Secretary of State
Suite 152, State Capitol
700 Capital Avenue
Frankfort, KY 40601
7. If mailing, students must submit their essays or slogans with the enclosed entry form. All sections of the entry form must be completed.
8. All entries must be submitted electronically by 5 p.m. (EST) Wednesday, January 31, 2024, or postmarked by that date.
9. Entries become the property of the Kentucky Secretary of State's Office and will not be returned.
10. All guidelines must be met for any entry to be considered by contest judges.

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 Essay Contest.

Essay Prompt (grades 9-12):

“What can students do to address the mutual distrust of people of opposing political parties?” Please limit your essay to 1,000 words.

Slogan Prompt (grades 6-8):

Political polarization is at a high. *Suggest a slogan to promote respectful discourse in the political arena.*

**SECRETARY OF STATE MICHAEL G. ADAMS
ESSAY/SLOGAN CONTEST ENTRY FORM**

Submit this form with your essay or slogan. All sections must be completed. If you choose to submit your essay online at sos.ky.gov/sos-office/Pages/essayslogan.aspx, you do not need to mail in your entry form.

Name

School

Home Address

School Address

City, State & Zip

City, State & Zip

Cell Phone Number

School Phone Number

Grade

Principal

Email Address

Student Signature

Date

All entries must be electronically submitted by 5 p.m. (EST) Wednesday, January 31, 2024 or postmarked by that date.

Entries must not include a student's name, school, or any other identifying information in the body of the essay or slogan.