

## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Kentucky Educators

**FROM:** Secretary of State Michael G. Adams

**SUBJECT:** 2020 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.

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.

The Essay Contest prompt, rules, and entry form are attached to this Memorandum. Please visit [sos.ky.gov/civics/essayslogan](https://sos.ky.gov/civics/essayslogan) for further information and guidelines for the 2020-2021 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, December 23, 2020, 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 Bradburn in my Office at [haley.bradburn@ky.gov](mailto:haley.bradburn@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**

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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/civics/essayslogan](https://sos.ky.gov/civics/essayslogan) 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, December 23, 2020, 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 changes should Kentucky make to its election system, and why?” Please limit your suggestions to those which would not require a constitutional amendment, and your essay to 1,000 words.*

**Slogan Prompt (grades 6-8):**

*Secretary Adams is launching the Frederick Douglass Award to encourage voter registration efforts in Kentucky schools. Write a slogan for the launching of this program.*

**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/civics/essayslogan](https://sos.ky.gov/civics/essayslogan), you do not need to mail in your entry form.

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Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
School Address

\_\_\_\_\_  
Home Address

\_\_\_\_\_  
City, State & Zip

\_\_\_\_\_  
City, State & Zip

\_\_\_\_\_  
School Phone Number

\_\_\_\_\_  
Home Phone Number

\_\_\_\_\_  
Principal

\_\_\_\_\_  
Grade

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
School

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**All entries must be electronically submitted by 5 p.m. (EST) Wednesday, December 23, 2020, 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.**