



Every Drop Counts

People who live in, go to school, or work within the **MWRA's** water service area are lucky to have one of the most abundant and high quality water supplies in the world.

Water supplied from the Quabbin and Wachusett reservoirs allows us to quench our thirst, bathe, flush toilets, and water our lawns without a thought. The Quabbin/Wachusett system is so large that it can withstand short and medium drought and dry periods without a significant impact on operating levels. BUT, that doesn't mean we should waste water. Water conservation is important to everyone!

Contest Topic: Water Conservation

Poster Contest

Students are being asked to use their creative skills to create a poster showcasing ways to conserve water.

Posters will be judged in 4 categories: Gr. K-2, Gr. 3-5, Gr. 6-8, and Gr. 9-12.

Posters should be no smaller than 8.5" x 11" and no bigger than 18" x 24". (posters received smaller or bigger than these dimensions will not be judged).

Writing Contest

Students are being asked to write an essay, story, or poem about the importance of water conservation.

Writing entries will be judged in 2 categories: Gr. 3-5 and Gr. 6-8.

Writing entries must be no more than 2 single-sided pages. (double-sided entries will not be judged).

Participation in the MWRA's Annual Poster Contest and Writing Contest is open to students who live in and/or go to school in the MWRA Service Area.

All entries must be postmarked by March 15, 2023. Early Entries are encouraged!

Entries should be mailed to:
MWRA School Program
2 Griffin Way
Chelsea, MA 02150

To see if you are eligible to participate, to obtain official rules, and to download forms and student labels, visit us on-line at www.mwra.com and follow the link to the School Program page.





MWRA School Education Program
2 Griffin Way
Chelsea, MA 02150

Dear Educator,

It is time again for the MWRA's Annual Poster & Writing Contests and I hope you will consider having your students participate.

Over this past summer, Massachusetts experienced an extended dry period and the Commonwealth declared a Level 2 Significant Drought in many parts of the state. Since the 1980's MWRA water communities have successfully reduced water usage by over 30%, which meant that the Quabbin and Wachusett Reservoirs remained near full and in normal operating range for that time of year. Although MWRA did not issue any mandatory water restrictions, we believe it is always important to conserve water whenever we can, so if the drought continues, we will have the water we need.

Water Conservation is the Topic for both the Poster & Writing Contests for the 2022-2023 School Year!

Students are asked to use their creative skills to design a poster and/or write an essay, poem or story explaining the importance of water conservation. Please note there are two contests – a Poster Contest & Writing Contest. Please advise students not to combine the two.

Attached, please find all necessary forms as well as a flyer announcing the contest. If you would like a contest packet mailed to you or have questions pertaining to the contest, please contact Jacqueline Collins, MWRA School Program Administrative Coordinator, at jacqueline.collins@mwra.com or 617-305-5681.

All entries must be postmarked by **Wednesday, March 15, 2023** and mailed to:

**MWRA School Contest
2 Griffin Way
Chelsea, MA 02150**

The contests are open to any student who lives in or attends a school located in the MWRA Service Area. To see if your students are eligible to participate, to get additional information, and to learn more about this topic, visit us online at www.mwra.com and follow the link to the School Program page.

Meg Tabacsko, Manager

Meg Tabacsko

MWRA School Education Program



2022/23 MWRA Poster & Writing Contest Rules & Details

Poster Contest



Question	Answer
Who is eligible for the contest?	All Massachusetts students in grades K-12 who attend school in one of MWRA's service communities and/or any student who lives in the MWRA district. Prizes are awarded in four categories: K-2, 3-5, 6-8, and 9-12. All artwork must be the student's work, and only individual (not group) entries will be accepted. Only one entry per student.
How will entries be judged?	Judging is based on originality, clarity of message, use of materials, and quality of work.
What size should entries be?	Posters should be no smaller than 8.5" x 11" and no larger than 18" x 24" . Note: Posters will be returned only if indicated on the registration form.

Writing Contest



Question	Answer
Who is eligible for the contest?	All Massachusetts students in grades 3-8 who attend school in one of MWRA's service communities and/or live in the MWRA district. Prizes will be awarded in two categories: 3-5 and 6-8. Only individual (not group) entries will be accepted.
How will entries be judged?	Judging is based on factual accuracy, originality, creativity, clarity of thought, readability and persuasiveness.
How long should entries be?	Entries should be no longer than two single-sided pages and may be typed or written neatly in ink. Note: Writing entries will not be returned.

All Contests

Question	Answer
When is the contest deadline?	Entries must be postmarked by Wednesday, March 15, 2023 . Early entries encouraged.
What are the packaging instructions?	A Student Label must be attached to each entry. The label must be taped or glued securely to the back of the entry (no paper clips or staples). You may create your own label or neatly write information on the back of the entry as long as all information is included. Teachers must fill in the Contest Registration Form stating the grade level(s) and number of entries. If there are entries from more than one grade level, fill out separate forms.
Can entries be dropped off at the MWRA?	All entries must be mailed to: MWRA School Program, 2 Griffin Way, Chelsea, MA 02150. Entries need to be post marked by March 15, 2023.
What are the prizes?	The first place winner(s) in each category receives a \$100 gift card. Second prize is a \$50 gift card and third prize is a \$25 card. Honorable Mention Awards will recognize other outstanding entries and each student who participates receives a certificate.
When will winners be announced?	Winners will be notified in April, 2023.
Where can I get more information?	For information or to download forms, go to www.mwra.com and click on school program .

Frequently Asked Contest Questions (students)

General Questions about the Poster & Writing Contests

Q. What are the Contest Topics?

A. The importance of a water conservation is the topic for the poster and writing contests.

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. First prize in each category is a \$100.00 gift card, 2nd prize is a \$50.00 gift card, and 3rd prize is a \$25.00 gift card. In each of the (6) categories there is a 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 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 this 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 I combine a poster and writing in one entry?

A. No, there are two separate contests. Please **do not** combine poster and writing into one piece of work.

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 **Wednesday, March 15, 2023**.

Q. How will I be notified if I win?

A. If you are a winner, your teacher will be notified via email sometime in April, 2023. If you include your parent/guardian information on the student label, we will notify them directly.

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 water conservation. You are being asked to use your creative skills to create a poster showcasing ways to conserve water.

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. And, 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 the importance of water conservation.

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. Can I include artwork with my writing entry?

- A. No, there are two separate contests.

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.

Frequently Asked Contest Questions (teachers)

Q. What is the topic for this year's contest?

A. The importance of water conservation.

Q. Does the entire class have to participate?

A. While some teachers have their entire class participate, others make it optional or offer it as a means of extra credit. If you only have a few entries, we do ask that you still complete the Contest Registration Form and make sure the students fill out the Student Label and attach it securely to the back of the entry. Please **Do Not** attach the student label to the front of the entry or use staples or paperclips.

Q. Where do I get the Registration Form and Student Labels?

A. You can download all the forms from this page. If you would like to be added to the database, please contact Jacqueline Collins at Jacqueline.collins@mwra.com

Q. If the entire class participates, should I sort through and only send in the best?

A. No, please send them all. This helps us to know how many students took part in the contest and enables us to send a Certificate of Participation to every entrant. **Please note:** we send blank certificates of participation for you, the teacher, to fill in the names.

Q. May I assist my students in any way?

A. We encourage class discussion to make sure the students stay on topic, but we ask that all work be done by the students themselves. We do allow teachers to assist students in grade K-2 with labeling and mounting of posters.

Q. Do posters have to be labeled and mounted?

A. No, but posters must be no smaller than **8.5" X 11"** and no larger than **18" X 24"**. Please no 3-D models that would be unable to mail.

Q. Must the writing entries be done on a computer?

A. No, they can be written neatly in ink. Writing entries should be no longer than 2 pages and use only one side of the paper.

Q. When is the contest deadline?

A. The contest deadline is **Wednesday, March 15, 2023**. Entries must be postmarked by this date and early entries are encouraged. Entries should be mailed to:

**MWRA School Contest
2 Griffin Way
Chelsea, MA 02150**

If you still have questions, contact Meg Tabacsko at meg.tabacsko@mwra.com.

MWRA SCHOOL CONTEST STUDENT LABEL

To be GLUED or TAPED only to the BACK of every entry

Student Label

Student's Name: _____ *Grade _____

*School: _____

*Address: _____

*City: _____ *Zip: _____

*Teacher Name: _____

*Teacher's Email: _____

Parent/Guardian Name (optional): _____

Parent/Guardian's Email (optional): _____

Student Label

Student's Name: _____ *Grade _____

*School: _____

*Address: _____

*City: _____ *Zip: _____

*Teacher Name: _____

*Teacher's Email: _____

Parent/Guardian Name (optional): _____

Parent/Guardian's Email (optional): _____

*** TEACHER MAY COMPLETE THESE BLANKS PRIOR TO COPYING**