



VSBA

Virginia School Boards Association

Leadership • Advocacy • Support

VSBA Student Essay Contest

2022 Guidebook

This year the top three finalists will each receive a \$1,000 scholarship!

2022 VSBA STUDENT ESSAY/SPEAKING CONTEST

PURPOSE

This contest is designed to give High School students in Virginia an opportunity to express creative ideas and concepts, conduct research, think critically, practice public speaking skills, and subsequently receive recognition for doing so. It is also an opportunity for our Conference on Education attendees (approximately 300+ school board members and administrators) to see and hear examples of the quality of students the schools within the Commonwealth are producing.

RULES & GUIDELINES – Please print and distribute as needed

The Virginia School Boards Association is holding a personal essay/speaking contest where the finalists will have the opportunity to present before an audience of more than 300 school board members and administrators at the 2022 VSBA Conference on Education held July 19 at The Richmond Delta Marriot.

This is the second year the Virginia School Boards Association will hold this contest. We hope that this contest will bring out the very best in students' writing and speaking efforts and allow our attendees to witness examples of the bright, thoughtful, and accomplished students from around the Commonwealth.

Specific Rules and Guidelines begin on page 2.

TOPIC

FOOD SECURITY

Everyone's part of the food system. Food security exists when all people, at all times, have physical, social, and economic access to sufficient, safe, and nutritious food that meets their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life. Prepare a personal essay discussing how from your point of view food insecurity impacts the success of students, the barriers to food security that exist within your community and ways it could be improved.

ENTERING THE CONTEST & REGISTRATION DEADLINE

This contest is open until 4:00 p.m. on May 6, 2022, to all 2021-2022 school year high school students who are enrolled in school divisions that are current members of the Virginia School Boards Association. The application process must be completed in its entirety **online no later than 4:00 p.m. Friday, May 6, 2022. Receipt of applications will be time-stamped by VSBA and confirmation of acceptance sent to the applicant within 3 business days of receipt.**

Applicants must submit ALL of the following by the date shown above to be part of the contest:

- ☐ An application form (application at this link: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/StudentEssay2022>)
- ☐ A 600-750 word personal essay
- ☐ A video of the essay presented as a speech
- ☐ A completed and signed Parental Release Form (see page 6 of this document)

HOW TO SUBMIT YOUR PRESENTATION TO VSBA

All of the required materials listed in the section above (excluding the application, which is to be submitted the Survey Monkey link shown above) shall be emailed to brittany@vsba.org no later than **4:00 p.m. Friday, May 6, 2022**. The video portion of the submission must be compressed and in a transferable quality. Supported file formats are .mp4, .mov, .mpg, or .avi. Participants may also upload their video to YouTube and attach the link to their submission email. Remember that partial submissions will not be considered for participation in the contest, so be sure to include all four items with the email to VSBA

2022 VSBA STUDENT ESSAY/SPEAKING CONTEST

RECOGNITION

The contest offers the following incentives:

Top 3 essays/finalists will receive a \$1,000 scholarship and plaque to be presented at the 2022 VSBA Conference on Education.

* The top 3 finalists are required to attend the 2022 VSBA Conference on Education, be recognized and present their essay as a speech. The location of the conference is:

Richmond Delta Marriot
555 E. Canal Street,
Richmond, VA, 23219

* The top 3 finalists will be recognized on the VSBA website.

* The top 3 finalists and their work will be recognized in an issue of the VSBA Newsletter.

RULES AND GUIDELINES

- All entrants must be classified as a high school student (grades 9-12) during the 2021-2022 school year.
- The school where they are enrolled must be a Public High School in Virginia.
- By entering, you agree to present your essay/speech at the VSBA Conference on Education if chosen as a finalist. This is required to receive the cash award.
- Although this is meant to be a personal, rather than an academic essay, attention should be given to content, organization, style, and correctness.
- Essays/presentation must be original. However, consultation with teachers or other resources is encouraged. Plagiarism is not acceptable.
- Credit must clearly be given to any source where borrowed material is directly used or quoted.
- Essays should be approximately 600-750 words in length (appropriate for 4-5 minutes of speaking).
- A video of the presentation in its entirety must be submitted with this application.
- Presentations should be memorized, but students may use 3x5 note cards as references during their presentations. **Presentations may not be read in the entirety from a manuscript or notes.**
- Presentations must be approximately **four to five minutes** in duration.
- If you would like to request accommodations please contact Brittany Moore, membership services coordinator, at brittany@vsba.org.

JUDGING

The finalists will be selected by a panel of judges selected by the Virginia School Boards Association. Criteria for judging the essays and the presentations include quality of the written essay both in form and content and student delivery qualities as demonstrated in the video. Accuracy of facts, demonstrated mastery of the topic, effective communication of concepts, thoughts, and ideas, proper use of voice and articulation, and originality all are important. A sample of the judging worksheet is shown below. The decisions of the judges are final.

2022 VSBA STUDENT ESSAY/SPEAKING CONTEST

Virginia School Boards Association Contest Judging Worksheet

Student: _____ School: _____

Division: _____

Essay/Speech Title: _____

CRITERIA

NOTES

Essay Qualities (_____/30 points):

No plagiarism in evidence

Well-organized information

Accuracy of material

Informative

Original & creative thinking

Resources credited appropriately

Speech Presentation (Video) (_____/35 points):

Captures the attention of the audience

Organizes ideas (presents a specific point of view)

Introduces and uses research effectively

Interprets and understands the subject

Uses resources and references appropriately

Student Delivery Qualities (_____/35 points):

Shows poise and confidence and passion

Speaks fluently and with clarity

2022 VSBA STUDENT ESSAY/SPEAKING CONTEST

Uses satisfactory pronunciation

Has control of filters (“ums” “you knows” like”)

Effectively uses voice quality and volume

Delivery is smooth and natural

Develops a rapport with the audience

Uses body movements appropriately (gestures, eye contact, facial expressions, posture)

Observed Time Limit	Yes	No
Time Used: _____		

Total Points Awarded: _____ / 100 points

Judge's Name: _____

Additional Comments:

2022 VSBA CONFERENCE ON EDUCATION STUDENT ESSAY/SPEAKING CONTEST

Parent/Legal Guardian Media Recording Release for Students

I, _____, Parent/Legal Guardian of
_____ (student's name), hereby
grant permission to the Virginia School Boards Association (VSBA) to use the
above-named student's video, photo, and likeness for promotional purposes by
VSBA in all manners, including, but not limited to: news releases, photographs,
video, audio, website, and other electronic or printed published media. I agree that
these videos, photos, and/or voice recordings may be used for a variety of
purposes without further notifying me. I understand VSBA shall not use any of the
student's personally identifying information, except for the student's full name, the
school that he/she attends, and the student's grade, without first obtaining my
express permission. VSBA has my permission for this use until I submit a written
revocation of my permission to the VSBA Office at 200 Hansen Road, Suite 2,
Charlottesville, VA 22911, brittany@vsba.org, or you may call 800-446-8722. I
understand the VSBA does not have control over a third party who retrieves my
student's information published by the VSBA and uses it without my permission. I
agree to hold the VSBA harmless for such misuse of my student's information.

Parent/Legal Guardian Printed Name

Parent/Legal Guardian Signature

Date