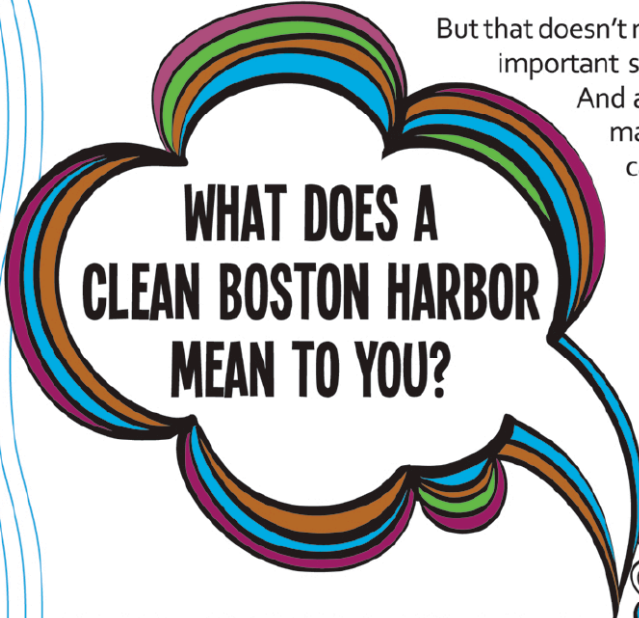


HELLO! IT'S TIME TO ENTER THE 30TH ANNUAL MWRA POSTER & WRITING CONTEST.

When the poster contest started 30 years ago, the idea was to get school children interested in water conservation. This was because much more water was coming out of the reservoirs than was safe to ensure enough water for the future. When the MWRA began the clean-up of Boston Harbor, a writing contest was added to make kids aware of the importance of sewage treatment for a healthy environment.

A lot has changed since then. Water usage has dropped over 100 million gallons each day and the clean-up of Boston Harbor is a national environmental success story.

But that doesn't mean our work is done. Conserving water is still important so that safe drinking water is available for all. And a clean Boston Harbor means maintaining the massive treatment plant at Deer Island for decades to come.



**WHAT DOES A
CLEAN BOSTON HARBOR
MEAN TO YOU?**

WRITING CONTEST TOPIC: WHAT A CLEAN BOSTON HARBOR MEANS TO ME

Judging in 3 categories; grades 3-5, 6-8, and 9-12.

POSTER CONTEST TOPIC: WATER CONSERVATION

Judging in 3 categories; grades K-2, 3-5, and 6-8.



**WHAT ABOUT
WATER
CONSERVATION?**

The contest is open to any student who attends a school located in the MWRA service area. To see if you are eligible to participate, to get additional information and to download forms and student labels, visit us online at www.mwra.com or call the MWRA School Education Program at 617-660-7975 for a complete information packet.

All contest entries must be postmarked by **FRIDAY, MARCH 11, 2011**. Early entries are encouraged.

ALL ENTRIES MUST BE MAILED TO: MWRA School Contest, Deer Island Treatment Plant, Reception/Training Building, 190 Tafts Avenue, Winthrop, MA 02152



MEMORANDUM

To: Grade K – 12 Educators in the MWRA Service Area

From: Meg Tabacsko, Manager – MWRA School Program

Date: January 3, 2011

Re: MWRA 30th Annual Poster/Writing Contest

It's time again for the MWRA Poster/Writing Contest and we are going back to the original contest topics from 30 years ago.

For the poster contest, students are being asked to create a water conservation poster. Posters will be judged in 3 categories: grades K-2, 3-5, and 6-8.

For the writing contest, students are being asked to write what a clean Boston Harbor means to them. Writing entries will be judged in 3 categories: grades 3-5, 6-8, and 9-12.

The **contest deadline** is – **Friday, March 11th, 2011**. Early entries are encouraged and can be sent at any time. All entries must be mailed to:

**MWRA School Contest
Deer Island Treatment Plant
Reception/Training Building
190 Tafts Ave.
Winthrop, MA 02152**

The contest is open to any student who attends a school located in the MWRA Service Area. To see if you are eligible to participate, to get additional information, and to download forms and student labels, visit us online at www.mwra.com.

Please post the enclosed flyer in your classroom.

Every group of student entries must have a Contest Registration Form and each entry must have a Student Label attached securely to the back of the entry. These are included in this packet and can also be downloaded from the MWRA's website.

Please don't hesitate to contact me at meg.tabacsko@mwra.state.ma.us or at 617-660-7975 if you have any questions or need additional information. Good luck!

MWRA Poster/Writing Contest Rules & Details

Poster Contest



Question	Answer
Who is eligible for the contest?	All Massachusetts students in grades K-8 who attend school in one of MWRA's service communities. Prizes are awarded in three categories: K-2, 3-5, and 6-8. All artwork must be the student's work, and only individual (not group) entries will be accepted.
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 ½ 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 3-12 who attend school in one of MWRA's service communities. Prizes will be awarded in three categories: 3-5, 6-8 and 9-12 and only individual (not group) entries will be accepted. No audio or video 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.

Both Contests



Question	Answer
When is the contest deadline?	Entries must be postmarked by Friday, March 11th, 2011.
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 the address indicated on the Contest Registration Form.
What are the prizes?	The first place winner in each category receives a \$100 gift check. Second prize is a \$50 check and third prize is a \$25 check. 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 by mid April. Prizes will be awarded at a ceremony on Friday, May 27, 2011 at the Deer Island Treatment Plant. Contest winners, their families, teachers and principals are all invited to attend the ceremony.
Where can I get more information?	For information or to download forms, go to www.mwra.com and click on school program .

2010/11 MWRA School Contest Registration Form

To be completed by the teacher and submitted with every packet of entries. Each individual entry must have a Student Label attached to the back of the entry.

(Please print)

School Name: _____

School Address: _____

City/Town: _____ Zip code: _____

Teacher: _____

School Phone: _____

Teacher's Email Address: _____

Fill in the entry information in the table below:

Entry Type	Number of Entries Included	Grade
Poster *		
Writing		

* Posters will only be returned if indicated below. If nothing is indicated, the posters will be recycled. Please return posters: YES ___ NO ___

All entries should be sent to: **MWRA School Contest
Deer Island Treatment Plant
Reception/Training Building
190 Tafts Avenue
Winthrop, MA 02152**

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

Entries Received: _____ Entered on Database: _____
Certificates Sent: _____

Frequently Asked Contest Questions (students)

General Questions about the Poster/Writing Contest

Q. What are the prizes?

- A.** First prize in each category is a \$100.00 gift check, 2nd prize is a \$50.00 check, and 3rd prize is a \$25.00 check. In the poster contest there are (3) categories K-2, 3-5, and 6-8. In the writing contest the (3) categories are 3-5, 6-8, and 9-12. In each of the (6) categories there is a 1st, 2nd, 3rd and (3) honorable mention winners. All winners, including honorable mention winners, are invited with their families to an Awards Ceremony at Deer Island on May 27, 2011.

Everyone who enters the contest will receive a Certificate of Participation – suitable for framing!

Q. What information needs to be included with my poster and/or writing entry?

- A.** All posters and writing entries must have a completed Student Label attached to the back of the entry. Labels should be taped or glued to the back of the entry (not paper clipped or stapled). If the label falls off, you can't win.

Q. Where do I get a Student Label?

- A.** Ask your teacher for one or you can download Student Labels from this webpage.

Q. May I enter both the poster and writing contests?

- A.** If you are in grades 3-8, you may enter both contests.

Q. May I enter the contest on my own or does it have to be through the school?

- A.** You may enter on your own if you live in or attend a school located in the MWRA. You must include the student label on the back of your entry.

Q. How will I be notified if I win?

- A.** Your teacher will receive an email no later than April 15th, 2011 to let him/he know if there are any winners in the class. If you are doing it on your own, please include home contact information so we can contact you.

Questions about the Poster Contest

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

A. The poster contest topic for all categories is water conservation.

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 a room.

Q. Can friends work on posters together?

A. No, only individual work will be accepted.

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.

Posters must be no smaller than 8.5" X 11" and no bigger than 18" X 24". Be sure to attach a Student Label to the back of your poster.

Q. How will my poster be judged?

A. A panel of judges scores 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 topic for this year's writing contest?

A. The writing contest topic for all categories is what a clean Boston Harbor means to you.

Q. What makes a good writing entry?

A. First, be sure your entry addresses the topic and that your facts are correct. As good as a piece might be, if it isn't on topic or factually accurate, 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. Where can I get information about the contest topics?

A. You can find plenty of information throughout the MWRA's website. There are most likely newspaper and magazine articles at your local or school library on this topic. Also, talk with your relatives and friends. They may have some personal experiences or information that may be useful.

Q. Do I have to write my entry on a computer?

A. Writing entries may be written neatly in ink and can be no longer than two pages. Please use only one side of the paper and be sure to attach a Student Label securely to the back of your entry. Audio and video entries will not be accepted.

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, who 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. 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.

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

A. Information packets that include a flyer announcing the contest, a registration form, student labels, and a rules and details sheet are being mailed and should arrive at schools during the middle of January 2011. If you are not on the MWRA's mailing list and wish to receive an information packet, please contact Meg Tabacsko at meg.tabacsko@mwra.state.ma.us. All contest information is listed on this webpage and can be downloaded from this site.

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 know how many students took part in the contest and enables us to send a certificate of participation to every student who enters the contest.

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".

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. Contest entries **must be postmarked by Friday, March 11, 2011**. Early entries are encouraged and should be mailed to:

MWRA School Contest
Deer Island Treatment Plant
Reception/Training Building
190 Tafts Ave.
Winthrop, MA 02152

Q. What if I still have some questions?

A. If you still have questions; please contact Meg Tabacsko, MWRA School Program Manager, at meg.tabacsko@mwra.state.ma.us. If you do not have access to email, please call Meg at 617-660-7975.

MWRA SCHOOL CONTEST STUDENT LABEL

Student Label

Student's Name: _____ *Grade _____
*School: _____
*Address: _____
*City: _____ *Zip: _____
*Teacher: _____
*Phone: (_____) _____

Student Label

Student's Name: _____ *Grade _____
*School: _____
*Address: _____
*City: _____ *Zip: _____
*Teacher: _____
*Phone: (_____) _____

Student Label

Student's Name: _____ *Grade _____
*School: _____
*Address: _____
*City: _____ *Zip: _____
*Teacher: _____
*Phone: (_____) _____

Student Label

Student's Name: _____ *Grade _____
*School: _____
*Address: _____
*City: _____ *Zip: _____
*Teacher: _____
*Phone: (_____) _____