

Tap vs. Bottle



IF YOUR SCHOOL IS IN THE MWRA SERVICE AREA THEN ENTER THIS CONTEST!

Grades K through 8 - create a poster showing the benefits of tap water.

Grades 3 through 12 - write an essay or poem convincing others about tap water's benefits.

Grades 9 through 12 - produce a public service video promoting the benefits of tap water.

Entries must be postmarked by Wednesday, March 13, 2013. Early entries are encouraged. Mail entries to:
MWRA School Contest, Deer Island Treatment Plant, Reception/Training Building, 190 Tafts Ave., Winthrop, MA 02152

Check out the School Program page of the MWRA website-www.mwra.com for contest rules, details and a list of MWRA communities.

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

November 30, 2012

Dear Educator,

It's time again for the MWRA Annual Poster/Writing Contest. The contest helps students make the connection between the environment and their faucets and drains. I hope you will consider participating.

The topic for this year's contest is **Tap vs. Bottled Water**. Specifically, students are being asked to create a poster, essay, poem, or video to convince others about the benefits of tap water. Posters will be judged in 3 categories: grades K-2, 3-5, and 6-8. The categories for writing entries are: grades 3-5, 6-8, and 9-12. New this year, we are introducing a Video Contest for high school students only, grades 9-12.

The **contest deadline** is – **Wednesday, March 13, 2013**. Early entries are encouraged and can be sent at any time. All poster and writing entries must be mailed to:

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

Further details for video entries will be posted on-line soon.

The contest is open to any student who lives in or attends a school located in the MWRA Service Area. To see if you are eligible to participate, to obtain official rules, and to download forms and student labels, visit us online at www.mwra.com and follow the link to the School Program page.

Please post the enclosed flyer in your classroom.

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!

Sincerely,

Meg Tabacsko, Manager
MWRA School Education Program



2012/13 MWRA 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 and/or any student who lives in the MWRA district. 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 and/or live in the MWRA district. Prizes will be awarded in three categories: 3-5, 6-8 and 9-12 and 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.

Video Contest



Question	Answer
Who is eligible for the contest?	All Massachusetts students in grades 9-12 who attend school in one of MWRA's service communities and/or live in the MWRA district. Entries will be accepted from individuals and groups of up to 2.
How will entries be judged?	Judging is based on factual accuracy, originality, creativity, and persuasiveness.
How long should entries be?	Entries should be no longer than 3 minutes in length and must be submitted in DVD format. Note: Video entries will not be returned and a signed release form must be submitted with each entry. A release form is included at the end of this packet.

All Contests

Question	Answer
When is the contest deadline?	Entries must be postmarked by Wednesday, March 13, 2013 . 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. For video entries, attach a student label to each DVD case. Video contest entries must also be accompanied by a signed release form, which is included at the end of this packet. 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 24, 2013 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/annual/contest/2013/pre/contestmain.htm

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 included a flyer announcing the contest, a registration form, student labels, and a rules and details sheet will be mailed to schools in December 2012. If you did not receive the information packet, please contact Meg Tabacsko at meg.tabacsko@mwra.state.ma.us. You can also download all the information from this page.

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 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 is 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. Do students entering the video contest need to sign a release?

A. All video entries must be accompanied by a signed release form, included at the end of this packet. If a student is under 18, a parent or guardian must give MWRA permission to use his or her video. If working in a team, each member of your group must submit a signed release form along with the video.

Q. Can I use clips from copyrighted commercials, movies or television shows or music?

A. Students may only include clips from copyrighted commercials, movies, television shows, music, or on-line videos if they obtain copyright permission. They must verify that their video contains no copyrighted material in their signed release form. The form is included at the end of this packet.

Q. Can students work on the video contest in groups?

A. Students may work alone or in teams of no more than two people.

Q. How long can a video be?

A. The video should be no longer than 3 minutes.

Q. What format should the video be in?

A. You must submit 2 copies of the video in DVD format.

Q. When is the contest deadline?

A. The contest deadline is Wednesday, March 13, 2013. Entries must be postmarked by this date and early entries are encouraged. Entries should be mailed to:

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

Frequently Asked Contest Questions (students)

General Questions

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. The video contest is for grades 9-12 only. Everyone who enters the contest will receive a Certificate of Participation – suitable for framing!

Q. What information needs to be included with poster/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. Please do not paper clip or staple the student label to your entry as it might fall off. If we don't know who the entry belongs to, you cannot win.

Q. What information needs to be included with my video entry?

A. All video entries must have a completed Student Label securely taped to each DVD case. Please remember to submit two copies of your DVD. You must also include a signed release form with your entry. The release form is included at the end of this packet.

Q. Where do I get a Student Label?

A. Ask your teacher for one or you can download Student Labels from this web site.

Q. Where can I get information about the contest topics?

A. You can find plenty of information throughout the MWRA's website. Helpful links are posted on the 2012-2013 Contest Main Page: www.mwra.com/annual/contest/2013/pre/contestmain.htm. 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. May I enter more than one contest?

A. If you are in grades 3-8, you may enter both the poster and writing contests. If you are in grades 9-12, you may enter both the writing and video contests.

Q. How will I be notified if I win?

A. Teachers will be notified via email if they have winners in their class in April 2013.

Questions about the Poster Contest

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

A. All students in K – 8 are being asked to create a poster showing the benefits of tap 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 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. All students in Gr. 3-12 are being asked to write an essay, poem, or creative piece to convince others about the benefits of tap water.

Q. What makes a good writing entry?

A. First, be sure your entry addresses the question. 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. 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.

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.

Questions about the Video Contest

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

A. Students in grades 9-12 are being asked to create a video advertising the benefits of tap water.

Q. What makes a good video?

A. Make sure your video is on topic. Use your video to try to educate your fellow students and their families about the benefits of tap water – both for your health and the health of the environment.

Q. Can friends work on a video together?

A. Yes, up to two individuals can work on a video.

Q. How long can my video be?

A. The video must be 3 minutes or less.

Q. What format should the video be in?

A. You must submit 2 copies of the video in DVD format.

Q. Can I use clips from copyrighted commercials, movies or television shows or music?

A. Only if you have obtained copyright permission.

Q. Will I need to sign a release?

A. Yes. If you are under 18, your parent or guardian must give MWRA permission to use your video. Each member of your group must submit a signed release form along with the video. The release form is included at the end of this packet.

Q. How will my video be judged?

A. A panel of judges scores the videos on factual accuracy, originality, creativity and persuasiveness.

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: (_____) _____

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

2012/13 MWRA 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		
Video		

* 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: _____



MASSACHUSETTS WATER RESOURCES AUTHORITY

VIDEO CONTEST 2012/2013

RELEASE AND AUTHORIZATION FORM

We _____ (student), and _____ (parent/guardian) hereby assign and transfer all rights and copyrights to any and all original, creative works ("Work") by the undersigned student, including any video tape and/or sound recordings which are a part of the Work to and for the use and benefit of the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority ("MWRA") in connection with the above-referenced contest. In addition, each of the undersigned hereby authorizes MWRA the unrestricted right to display, reproduce, exhibit, broadcast and/or distribute the Work ("Re-Publication") without limitation and release MWRA from any and all claims for any compensation for the Work or for any Re-Publication thereof by the student, parent(s) or other contributors to the Work.

If the Work contains copyrighted material, student and parent/guardian represent to MWRA that appropriate permission has been obtained for the use of such material and have attached evidence of that permission to this document. In consideration of the foregoing assignment of the Work and release of any claims, MWRA grants to the named student the non-exclusive, royalty-free right to use and claim the Work for the sole purpose of attributing its creation to the student and/or for the purpose of exhibiting a copy of the Work in any portfolio of the student or for any other non-commercial purpose or use thereof.

The undersigned parent hereby certifies that he/she is over the age of twenty-one (21) years and is willing to bind both parent/legal guardian and student to the foregoing terms concerning the Work.

(Signature of Student) (Date) _____
(Signature of Parent/Guardian) (Date)

Please check one of the following:

_____ No copyrighted material or content is contained in the Work.

_____ Permission to use copyrighted material or content in the Work is attached.