

Don't Flush That!

Even if they are small, even if the package says "flushable" – some everyday items can cause messy and expensive problems for the plumbing in your home or school if flushed down the toilet. They can cause sewer backups or get caught in machinery on the way to or at Deer Island.

Annual MWRA Poster & Writing Contest - 2019/2020 School Year

Students are asked to use their creative skills to create a poster and /or write an essay, story or poem explaining what should or should not be flushed down toilets or put down drains.

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

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

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

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

All entries must be postmarked by Wednesday, March 4, 2020. 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 students 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 Contest. The contest helps students make the connection between the environment and their faucets and drains. I hope that you will consider participating.

Students are being asked to use their creative skills to design a poster and/or write an essay, poem or story explaining what should or should not be flushed down toilets or put down drains. So-called "flushable" wipes are a big issue, but it's so much more than that!

Enclosed please find all necessary forms as well as a flyer announcing the contest. We ask that you please post the flyer in your classroom.

All entries must be postmarked by **Wednesday, March 4, 2020** and mailed to:

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

Early entries are encouraged and will be accepted anytime. With the extended Winter Break this year, you might want to send this information home with your students over the holidays. This is a great topic to promote family discussion. Please advise parents that although we encourage them to assist in the research, all work must be done by the students themselves.

The contest is 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, download forms and student labels, and to learn more about this topic, visit us online at www.mwra.com and follow the link to the School Program page.

If you would like additional contest packets or have questions pertaining to the contest, please contact Danielle DiRuzza, MWRA School Program Administrative Assistant, at Danielle.DiRuzza@mwra.com or 617-305-5681.

Meg Tabacsko, Manager

Meg Tabacsko

MWRA School Education Program



2019/20 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 4, 2020 . 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?	We prefer entries be mailed to: MWRA School Program, 2 Griffin Way, Chelsea, MA 02150. Entries may be dropped off in Chelsea between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday only.
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 by beginning of April. Prizes will be awarded at a ceremony on Friday, May 22, 2020 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 .

Frequently Asked Contest Questions (students)

General Questions about the Poster & Writing Contests

Q. What are the Contest Topics?

- A. What Should or Should Not Be Flushed Down Toilets or Put Down Drains 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. All winners, including honorable mention winners, are invited with their families to an **Awards Ceremony** at Deer Island on **Friday, May 22, 2020**. Everyone who enters the contest will receive a Certificate of Participation – suitable for framing!

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

- A. All poster and writing entries must have a completed Student Label attached to the back of the entry. Labels 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 groups of students work together?

- A. Only individual work will be accepted for posters and writing entries.

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 4, 2020**.

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, 2020.

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 What Should or Should Not Be Flushed Down Toilets or Put Down Drains.

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.

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 What Should or Should Not Be Flushed Down Toilets or Put Down Drains.

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. 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. 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. What Should or Should Not Be Flushed Down Toilets or Put Down Drains?

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. Contest Information packets are mailed to teachers on the MWRA's database in late December. If you did not receive a packet and would like to receive a packet and be added to the database, please contact Danielle DiRuzza at Danielle.DiRuzza@mwra.com or 617-305-5681.

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"**.

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 4, 2020**. 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.



2019/20 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 securely attached to the back of the entry. NO STAPLES or PAPERCLIPS, please!

(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**
2 Griffin Way
Chelsea, MA 02150

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

Entries Received: _____ Entered on Database: _____

Certificates Sent: _____

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: _____

*Teacher's Email: _____

Student Label

Student's Name: _____ *Grade _____

*School: _____

*Address: _____

*City: _____ *Zip: _____

*Teacher: _____

*Teacher's Email: _____

Student Label

Student's Name: _____ *Grade _____

*School: _____

*Address: _____

*City: _____ *Zip: _____

*Teacher: _____

*Teacher's Email: _____

Student Label

Student's Name: _____ *Grade _____

*School: _____

*Address: _____

*City: _____ *Zip: _____

*Teacher: _____

*Teacher's Email: _____

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