

# 9<sup>th</sup>/10<sup>th</sup> Grade Writing Contest Information

This \$250 contest is administered through the Philipsburg Area Education Foundation (PAEF). The intent of this contest and required essay is to get students writing, learning and looking forward to the next level of training needed to be successful adults. It is the intent of PAEF to make two awards. One will be in the Philipsburg area and one in the Drummond area. If the contest is not presented in school, essays will be accepted from any 9/10<sup>th</sup> student.

## ELIGIBILITY:

The contest is open to all 9<sup>th</sup>/10<sup>th</sup> grade students with residency in Granite County.  
LATE and/or INCOMPLETE APPLICATIONS AND ESSAYS shall not be considered.

**TOPIC:** 1 or 2-year Technical Certification versus 4+-year University Degree

The topic intent is to encourage students to explore the benefits of post-secondary education, comparing and contrasting two types of credentials, and then making an argument based on research data – getting students at an earlier stage in high school to start thinking about going to college or vocational training. Writers may choose to examine a particular job based on certification or university degree education and make an argument for one type of training over the other. Research must show a comparison or contrast of two types of education for any industry or job – 4-year college degree AND certification-type vocational training.

## SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS:

1. Complete the Scholarship Application (see [paefmt.com](http://paefmt.com) for application forms)
2. Write an essay of at least 500 words in length on the given topic
3. Essay must have a title that reflects the essay content
4. Essay must be typed using a standard size 12 font
5. Essay must be persuasive, reflecting Montana Standards for Writing for Grades 9/10
6. Essay must demonstrate conventions of standard English - Montana Standards for Language for Grades 9/10
7. Essay must include research data from the *Montana Labor Market Information* website: [lmi.mt.gov](http://lmi.mt.gov)
8. Submit for school evaluation by the 1st Monday in April

## EVALUATION:

One student essay from each Granite County high school shall be chosen by their school's selection process and forwarded for final evaluation and award through a committee comprised of community members. Each school's winning essay and any other essay must be mailed by the 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday in April to: **PAEF, P. O. Box 900, Philipsburg, MT 59858**. Mark the envelope with "9/10<sup>th</sup> grade Writing Contest."

The final essay evaluation shall include standards as listed in the Montana Office of Public Instruction (OPI) *College and Career Readiness Anchor Standards: Writing Standards and Language Standards for Grades 9/10*: These standards can be accessed at [www.opi.mt.gov](http://www.opi.mt.gov) - Montana Common Core Standards for English Language Arts & Literacy in History/Social Studies, Science, and Technical Subjects by Grade-Band.

## AWARD:

The student does not ever receive a cash award; rather, the contest award is maintained in PAEF's endowment fund until the student graduates from high school. At that time, the student shall designate the post-secondary institution to apply the award. PAEF shall release the awarded amount, plus any interest growth it has accumulated, to the designated institution. The award is guaranteed a minimum of \$250 regardless of the stock market. The winning student must give consent to PAEF to publish their name and essay in their newsletter and news releases. The winner and their family shall be invited to attend the PAEF Scholarship Reception on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday in May.

# 9/10<sup>th</sup> Grade Writing Contest Application

Name:		Date:
Mailing Address:		Phone:
City and State:		Zip:
Social Security # _____ - _____ - _____		Email address:
Date of Birth:	Place of Birth:	
Parent or Guardian Information:		
Father's Name:		Mother's Name:
School Attended: _____ Drummond _____ Philipsburg _____ Home School or Resident		
Grade: _____ 9th _____ 10th		
English Teacher's or Instructor's Name:		
Topic for essay: 1 or 2-year Technical Certification versus 4+-year University Degree		
Title for essay:		
Guidelines: The topic may be explained by your teacher or sponsor. The essay shall be type-written using a standard size 12 font. It should be at least 500 words in length and free of grammar and spelling errors.		
Evaluation: Standards for Grades 9/10 as listed in the Montana Office of Public Instruction (OPI) <i>College and Career Readiness Anchor Standards: Writing Standards and Language Standards</i> . These standards can be accessed at <a href="http://www.opi.mt.gov">www.opi.mt.gov</a> <i>Montana Common Core Standards for English Language Arts &amp; Literacy in History/Social Studies, Science, and Technical Subjects by Grade-Band</i> .		
Authorization of Use: If my essay is judged to be the winner, I give my consent to its being published in my name in PAEF's publications and news releases.		
Student signature:		Date:
Parent signature:		Date:
NOTE: The English teacher or instructor is responsible for notifying your child of the deadline for submission. Late and/or incomplete applications and essays shall not be considered. The winner of this contest shall be notified in writing and invited to attend PAEF's scholarship reception at 6:00 pm on the 2 <sup>nd</sup> Monday in May. The location shall be communicated at a later date.		