

# 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Essay Contest Information

This \$50 contest is funded by the Flint Creek Masons and administered by the Philipsburg Area Education Foundation (PAEF). Up to four \$50 awards will be given to students from Granite County and Helmville.

## **ELIGIBILITY:**

The contest is open to all 6<sup>th</sup> grade students with residency in Granite County and Helmville Elementary School. LATE and/or INCOMPLETE APPLICATIONS AND ESSAYS shall not be considered.

**TOPIC:** The topic may vary and will be presented by the PAEF Grade School Coordinator.

## **SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS:**

1. Complete the 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Essay Application (see [paefmt.com](http://paefmt.com) for application forms)
2. Write an essay of 250+ words in length about the topic.
3. Essay must have a title that reflects the essay content – NOT the topic.
4. Essay must be typed using a standard size 12 font and double spaced.
5. Essay must be narrative text reflecting Montana Standards for Writing for Grade 6.
6. Submit the application and by the last Friday in March to the address below. If the contest is not offered in school, please meet the deadline as stated in the EVALUATION section of this document.

## **EVALUATION:**

Up to three student essays from each grade school shall be chosen by their teacher, forwarded for final evaluation and awarded through a PAEF Scholarship Committee. Home school students will submit their essays directly to the PAEF Grade School Coordinator for evaluation.

Each school's winning candidates' essays must be mailed by the last Friday in March to: **PAEF P. O. Box 900, Philipsburg, MT 59858**. Mark the envelope "6<sup>th</sup> Grade Essay Contest." Or contact the Grade School Coordinator for pickup.

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 Grade 6: 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 will receive a cash award – one for each area grade school winner: Philipsburg, Hall, Drummond and Helmville (homeschool students will fall into the nearest grade school's area to their home).

The winning student must give consent or denial to PAEF to publish their name and essay in their newsletter and news releases.

# 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Essay Contest Application

Name:		Date:
Mailing Address:		
City and State:		Zip:
Contact Phone:	Email address:	
Parent or Guardian Information for 6th graders:		
Father's Name:		Mother's Name:
School Attended: _____ Drummond _____ Philipsburg _____ Hall _____ Home School _____ Helmville		
Teacher, Instructor, or Mentor's Name:		
Topic for essay:		
Title for your essay:		
Guidelines: The essay shall be type-written using a standard size 12 font and double spaced. It should be 250+ words in length and free of grammar and spelling errors.		
Evaluation: Standards for Grade 6 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 of this contest, I give my consent to its being published in my name in PAEF's publications and news releases.		
Applicant's signature:	Date:	
Parent signature (if required):	Date:	
NOTE: Deadline: last Friday in March. Late and/or incomplete applications and essays shall not be considered.		

# 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Essay Contest Procedures

## Teacher or Instructor Notification:

1. PAEF Grade School Coordinator or designee shall send an email to elementary teachers and instructors on or about February 1<sup>st</sup> to include the most current contest information, application, and procedures.
2. The PAEF website shall post the most current information, application and procedures – [www.paefmt.com](http://www.paefmt.com)

## Student Notification and Execution:

1. Teachers and instructors shall notify their students of the essay contest including requirements and deadlines for submission.
2. Teachers and instructors shall provide students with the *6<sup>th</sup> Grade Essay Contest Application Form*.
3. Up to three student essays from each Granite County elementary school shall be chosen by their school's selection process and forwarded for final evaluation and award through the PAEF Scholarship Committee. If the contest is not offered in school, any 6<sup>th</sup> grade student may forward an essay and application for evaluation to PAEF.
4. Essays must be delivered to the Grade School Coordinator or mailed by the last Friday in March to: **PAEF, P. O. Box 900, Philipsburg, MT 59858**. Mark the envelope "6<sup>th</sup> Grade Essay Contest."
5. The PAEF Grade School Coordinator shall notify the winning student(s) in person or writing in accordance with established notification procedures.
6. The PAEF Grade School Coordinator shall notify the teachers and instructions, and provide feedback from the evaluation process.
7. Teachers and instructors may notify participating students of essay contest outcomes and any other relevant information they choose to share.

## Final Essay Evaluation:

1. 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 Grade 6*: These standards can be accessed at [www.opi.mt.gov](http://www.opi.mt.gov) - Montana Common Core Writing Standards for Literacy in History/Social Studies, Science, and Technical Subjects (WHST.6).
2. PAEF Scholarship Committee shall consist of a minimum of four members to evaluate the final essays.
3. The final essays shall be judged using an evaluation form and rubric to reflect standards with assigned point values.

# 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Essay Evaluation Form

Evaluation Date:

Committee Member Name:

## Evaluation Rubric

Standard #	Standard Description and Examples	Points Given 1 = none or minimally 2 = met the basic criteria 3 = exceptional use
Submission Requirement	This essay is type-written, size 12 font, double spaced, at least 250+ words and informative essay.	
<b>Writing Standard W.6.1.</b>	<b>Montana Standards are described in bold;</b> Questions for judges are not bold. <b>Write arguments to support claims with clear reasons and relevant evidence.</b>	
W.6.1.a	<b>Introduce claim(s) and organize the reasons and evidence clearly.</b> Does the essay have a title that reflects the overall theme? Is the first line or section of the essay engaging – making you want to read more? Does the essay have a single, distinct focus? Does the essay have a clear introduction, body and conclusion?	
W.6.1.b.	<b>Support claim(s) with clear reasons and relevant evidence, using credible sources, including oral sources, and demonstrating an understanding of the topic or text.</b> Does the writer present the topic clearly? Does the writer include numerous supporting details, facts, examples, statistics, etc?	
W.6.1.c.	<b>Use words, phrases, and clauses to clarify the relationship among claim(s) and reasons.</b> Does the writer use a variety of transition words and use them effectively (e.g., in addition to; therefore; in conclusion; meanwhile; etc.)?	
W.6.1.d.	<b>Establish and maintain a formal style.</b> The essay should be written objectively. Does the writer inject “I” and “my” into the text too often? Does the writer express an argument based on evidence and reasoning, rather than personal feeling?	
W.6.1.e.	<b>Provide a concluding statement or section that follows from the argument presented.</b> Does the writer provide a conclusion that wraps up the subject by restating the topic and supporting details?	
<b>Language Standard 1.</b>	<b>Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English grammar and usage when writing or speaking.</b>	
	Is the writing free of errors? Are pronouns in the proper case (subjective, objective, possessive) and are they consistent in number and person (he, she, they)? Does the writer provide illustration through use of varied and colorful verbs, adjectives and adverbs?	
<b>Language Standard 2.</b>	<b>Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English capitalization, punctuation, and spelling when writing.</b>	
	Does the writer spell correctly? Does the writer use proper punctuation?	
<b>Language Standard 4.</b>	<b>Determine or clarify the meaning of unknown and multiple-meaning words and phrases based on <i>grade 6 reading and content</i>, choosing flexibility from a range of strategies.</b>	
	Does the writer choose language that expresses ideas precisely and concisely, recognizing and eliminating wordiness and redundancy? Does the writer use vocabulary expected of 6 <sup>th</sup> grade? Does the writer use the words in the proper context? <i>Words that sound like one another but have different meanings: your, you're; there, they're, their; its versus it's; brake, break</i>	
	<b>Total Score</b>	