

UWM Women's & Gender Studies 25th Annual MPS Essay Contest 2020



This Essay Contest is Open to ALL Milwaukee Public School Students grades 5 through 12.

What is this contest about?

March is Women's History Month, when the UWM Women's & Gender Studies team invites Milwaukee Public School students in grades 5 through 12 to participate in our essay contest. To encourage students to explore and celebrate the many different ways Wisconsin women have made history both before and after the territory of Wisconsin became a state in 1848, we ask students to choose one Wisconsin woman, of any background and from any historical period (including the present), and write about that woman's contribution to her community, city, town, or to the state of Wisconsin. We encourage you to use a variety of resources to gather information including interviews and community or school libraries. Students may refer to our list of "50 Notable Wisconsin Women" as a starting point.

Many women have pursued careers, raised families, led movements, and volunteered in their communities. However, their contributions to Wisconsin have often remained invisible, because many historians have only recently considered women's activities as worthy of attention. Most women's lives and experiences are still unknown. To reclaim the history of the private lives and public roles of Wisconsin women is to discover how people lived and what they valued.

The purpose of the essay contest, "**Wisconsin Women Making History,**" is to help tell the stories of these remarkable women. You can take part by learning about the many ways women have made their voices heard and affected positive change in our communities, cities, and state.

How are the essays judged?

Judges will choose winning essays at the middle and high-school levels. Winners will receive an award and be invited to attend the Women's & Gender Studies Student Awards Ceremony in March. All participants will receive a certificate of achievement. Please note that essays will not be returned. Students should make a personal copy if they wish to retain their work.

What are the criteria?

1. Essays should be between **400 - 1000** words typed using **12 pt** professional font, double-spaced, and one inch margins on all sides. Word length should reflect grade level.
2. Essays should have an **original title** (not contest name or name of essay's subject) at the top of the first page. For example, titles like "Wisconsin Women Making History Contest" and "Georgia O'Keefe" are discouraged.
3. Essays should include a persuasive explanation of why the student chose to focus on a particular woman and what this woman means to the student.
4. Essays should be well organized with an introduction, body, and conclusion.

UWM Women's & Gender Studies 25th Annual MPS Essay Contest 2020



5. Students should identify their sources of information in footnotes, in the body of the essay, or in a works cited page.
6. Students should use proper punctuation, grammar, and spelling throughout their essay.

Essay Contest Rules:

1. **ALL MPS** middle and high school students, grades 5-12 are eligible.
2. Do not include your name on the essay. Your name should **only** appear on the entry form.
3. Attach a completed entry form to your essay. Photocopies of an entry form are acceptable.
4. Each entry form must include the signatures of the student and their teacher to certify that the essay is an original work.
5. Entries must be received/postmarked by **February 21, 2020.**

UWM Women's & Gender Studies 25th Annual MPS Essay Contest 2020



Entry Form

Please complete one form for each applicant. Only one essay per applicant.
Attach this entry form to the submitted essay. Thanks, and good luck!

Student's Name

Last: _____ First: _____

Home Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Name of Parent(s) or Guardian(s): _____

School Name: _____ Grade Level: _____

School Address: _____

Title of Essay: _____

After reading the following statement on plagiarism, please sign where indicated below.

I understand that representing the work of others as my own is plagiarism, and I hereby certify that this entry is my own work. I have read and understand all of the essay rules.

Student's Signature: _____ Date: _____

Teacher Statement:

I am familiar with this student's writing and I am satisfied that this entry is the student's own work.

Teacher Name: _____ Email: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Forward all entries to: MPS Essay Contest Submissions
UWM, Women's & Gender Studies
P.O. Box 413
Milwaukee, WI 53201-0413

Or by email: WGS@uwm.edu
Subject: MPS Essay Submission / Last Name, First Initial, Grade

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

Date Received: _____ Submission Number: _____