



## 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Autism Essay Contest Guidelines Everyone Belongs: Celebrating Differences

The Autism Society Affiliates in Wisconsin are proud to jointly host the 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Statewide Autism Essay Contest. The Annual Autism Essay Contest is a great way to facilitate a meaningful dialogue about how schools, teachers, and students can support those with autism in the classroom. The contest is designed to assist students in gaining a deeper understanding of autism and how their peers with autism experience the world.

### Students and/or classrooms K-5:

We highly encourage teachers to go to <http://researchautism.org/education/students-corner/kit-for-kids/> and watch the Kits for Kids Program video from the Organization for Autism Research as a class and consider doing all or parts of the Kit for Kids Activity sheets as part of a lesson.

Essay Entries should include:

- ✓ 1 – 2 things you learned about autism and how autism might affect your classmate(s)
- ✓ To be successful, students need different support at different times. Think about a time you needed extra help in an assignment or activity to be successful. Who helped you and how did it make you feel? How can you help your peers with autism be successful when they need help?
- ✓ Written or illustrated examples, using captions for all illustrations

OR

- ✓ As a student with autism, what do you wish other students knew about you? What makes you unique?

### Students grades 6 – 12

Read more about autism here: <http://researchautism.org/education/students-corner/hs-get-informed/>

Essay Entries should include:

- ✓ Write about 3 things you learned about autism and describe how autism might affect your classmate(s), using examples
- ✓ To be successful, students need different support at different times. Write an essay about what steps you could take to make your classroom or school a more supportive environment for students with autism. Use examples. Consider how you can extend support to community settings.

OR

- ✓ Interview a person with autism and find out what makes them unique. What are their strengths and what do they need extra help with? How could others best support them to be successful? What do they wish others knew about them? Write a summary of what you learned.
- ✓ Include your own reflections about the interview and how you can take steps to make sure your school is a supportive environment for students with autism.

OR

- ✓ As a student with autism, how does autism affect you and what do you wish other students knew about you?
- ✓ What makes you unique? What are your strengths and what do you need extra help with? How could others provide better support for you?

**Essay Submission:** Complete the entry form below and staple to your essay. All essays should be mailed, and postmarked by March 1, 2019, to:

Autism Society of Wisconsin  
RE: Annual Essay Contest  
1477 Kenwood Dr.  
Menasha, WI 54952

**Divisions:**

Essays will be divided into 4 groups, based on grade level. The contest reviewing committee will choose 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> place winners in each division.

- Division 1: K-2<sup>nd</sup> grade
- Division 2: 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> grade
- Division 3: 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade
- Division 4: 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade

**Winning Essays:** Teachers will be contacted by email by early-April if their student has placed. All 1<sup>st</sup> place winners will be honored at & invited to the Family Reception at the Autism Society of Wisconsin's 30<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference in Wisconsin Dells on Friday, April 12, 2019.

**Prizes:**

**1<sup>st</sup> Place Winners** in each category will receive a **\$100 Amazon gift card**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Place Winners** in each category will receive a **\$75 Amazon gift card**

**3<sup>rd</sup> Place Winners** in each category will receive a **\$50 Amazon gift card**

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**14<sup>th</sup> Annual Autism Awareness Essay Contest Entry Form**

(MUST BE COMPLETELY FILLED OUT AND STAPLED TO ESSAY)

Student's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher's Email: \_\_\_\_\_

School: \_\_\_\_\_ School Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

School Address: \_\_\_\_\_

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