



**Keep Calm  
and  
Science On**

**“Nothing in life is to be feared, it is only to be understood. Now is the time to understand more, so that we may fear less.”  
— Marie Curie**

## **Science Matters Essay Contest**

**Deadline: March 23, 2020**

Write an essay on the topic given for your grade level.

<b>K-2</b>	<b>Science is all around us and has a daily impact on our lives. Choose one thing you observe in your daily life and explain how science makes it possible.</b>
<b>3-5</b>	<b>Science is all around us and has a daily impact on our lives. Choose one thing you observe in your daily life and explain how science makes it possible.</b>
<b>6-8</b>	<b>Scientists need to demonstrate the ability to overcome obstacles when doing research showing a growth mindset and perseverance. Share a scientific discovery where the scientist demonstrated the ability to “Keep Calm and Science On” pushing through struggles to meet their goals. Explain what they have done and why you think what they have done demonstrates the idea of “Keep Calm and Science On.”</b>
<b>9-12</b>	<b>Can you share a famous or local scientist who you believe depicts “Keep Calm and Science On” in its true essence? Explain what they do and why you think they are an exemplar for the idea of “Keep Calm and Science On”.</b>

## **Awards**

The winning essay in each category will receive a \$100 prize and publication in the WSST newsletter and website. The teacher of the winning submission will also receive a \$100 prize. Additional highly rated essays may be published to the WSST website at the discretion of the contest organizers. Winners will be announced April 20, 2020 in celebration of Earth Day.

## **Eligibility**

Any classroom teacher in Wisconsin can submit one student essay. Student essays must be original work. Student essays must be submitted in one of four categories: PK-2, 3-5, 6-8, and 9-12.

## **Format**

- PK-2 category: Essays should be between 150-300 words and can include a picture. PK-1 teachers can help with the conversion of spoken essay to text.
- All other essays should be **500 words or less** in length. The essays must be typed, 12 point font, and double spaced.
- Text to speech and other adaptations may be made at any grade level based on a student's Individualized Education Program.

## **Submission**

Any teacher in Wisconsin can submit **ONE** essay in the appropriate category. Submissions should be emailed as **ONE** file that includes both the essay and release form in .pdf format to [essay@wsst.org](mailto:essay@wsst.org). All submissions must be received by 5:00 pm (CST) on March 23, 2020.

Essays submitted after 5:00 pm (CST) on March 23, 2020, are longer than 500 words, or do not include a signed release form will be disqualified. Submissions that cannot be read will not be judged. Multiple essays submitted from the same teacher will be disqualified. The decisions of the judges are final.

## **Judging Criteria**

### **Adherence to Topic (50%)**

The essay clearly addresses the theme of the competition and answers the question specified for each grade level. In addition to answering the question, the essay provides a clear understanding of the process of science and is scientifically accurate.

### **Creativity (30%)**

Points in this category are awarded to essays that provoke a lot of thought by the reader, express ideas in novel ways, make clever use of vocabulary, or use interesting metaphors or poignant stories.

### **Structures (20%)**

The essay is organized in a way that makes it easy for the reader to follow. In addition, the essay shows grade level appropriate use of grammar, vocabulary, and writing conventions. The essay must be typed using 12-point font, double spaced and less than 500 words. Teachers of students in the PK-2 category can help with conversion of spoken essays to text.

Results will be announced at [www.wsst.org](http://www.wsst.org) on April 20, 2020 and the teacher of the winning entries will be notified.

# Science Matters Essay Contest

## Participant Release Form

Your essay may be published and/or displayed on a public internet website ([www.wsst.org](http://www.wsst.org)) as well as in other formats, including the WSST newsletter. By signing this release form you and/or your parent or legal guardian acknowledge that the essay may be made publicly available and you and/or your parent or legal guardian consent to this use of your essay. The scanned release must be received by WSST as part of your essay submission by 5:00 pm (CST) on March 23, 2020.

I agree that my essay may be used, edited, reproduced, distributed, and presented in any non-commercial educational way deemed proper by the contest organizers without any additional consent, or payment to me or anyone else. There is no time limit on the validity of this release nor is there any geographic limitation on where my essay may be used, distributed or presented.

In addition, I certify that the essay submitted for this contest is my own work.

Name of Student (print): \_\_\_\_\_ Grade Level: \_\_\_\_\_

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Name (printed): \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_

Zip: \_\_\_\_\_