



2020-2021

Middle School Equity and Diversity Essay Contest

Sponsored by the Perth Amboy Public School District

Deadline: April 30, 2021

Overview	<p>Perth Amboy Public School scholars are among the best and brightest across the land. We are committed to creating learning opportunities for students to engage in conversations where they will recognize the value and power of their voice.</p> <p>In this competition we challenge you to examine the words "equity," "diversity" and "inclusion." Identify what makes you and others unique, and how we can be more inclusive. Consider: Have you ever felt excluded? How did that make you feel? What did you learn from that experience?</p> <p>We believe that a community that engages in practices celebrating diversity, promoting equity and inclusion; and securing "liberty and justice for all" fosters a positive and supportive environment for learners to grow into their potential. We appreciate your uniqueness and we look forward to reading your thoughts.</p>
Topic	<p><u>Option 1:</u> What makes someone unique? What are some of the challenges and opportunities that come from differences among people? Think of past or current or events as well as your own experiences and consider how they work together to inform your understanding of diversity. What is a way to create a more inclusive school, Perth Amboy community, or world?</p> <p><u>Option 2:</u> Choose one of the quotes below to discuss in detail. Give evidence from your own experience and current and/or historical</p>

	<p>events to support your writing. Be sure to include your thoughts on what diversity and inclusion mean to you.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● “We are striving to forge a union with purpose, to compose a country committed to all cultures, colors, characters and conditions of man. And so we lift our gaze not to what stands between us, but what stands before us. ~Amanda Gorman ● If we cannot now end our differences, at least we can help make the world safe for diversity." ~John F Kennedy ● Diversity is about all of us, and about us having to figure out how to walk through this world together. ~Jacqueline Woodson ● It is not our differences that divide us. It is our inability to recognize, accept, and celebrate those differences. ~Audre Lorde
Participants	Students in grades 6, 7, and 8 at DLS, McGinnis, and Shull Schools
Reward	TBD
Requirements	<p>All entries must meet the following requirements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Submitted no later than 4/30/2021 ● Submitted as a Google Doc, Microsoft Word Document, or PDF ● Name is included in the document title and on the top of the first page ● Essay length is between 300-500 words ● Essay uses a 12 pt. standard font, double-spaced text, with one-inch margins ● Spanish-language entries are welcomed from scholars in transitional Levels 1 and 2 ● Please submit all entries electronically (pdf) here: 6-8 FOLDER
Scoring	See the linked scoring rubric and overview for more information