

High School 2026 Essay Contest

OPEN TO ALL PENNSYLVANIA, WEST VIRGINIA, and DELAWARE STUDENTS: 9th- 12th GRADE
3 WINNERS - \$1,200 in prizes

PURPOSE: To recognize students who artfully demonstrate a superior understanding of the connection between their life and biomedical research (including the need for animals in that research).

WRITING TOPIC: "BIOMEDICAL RESEARCH AND MY LIFE"

Do you know someone who has benefited from vaccinations, pharmaceutical drugs, medical devices, surgery, or transplants? How does animal research help advance medicine and science? How have these life-saving technologies been developed? How has biomedical research affected the health of your dog, cat, or other pet?

ESSAY COMPONENTS*: Entries shall **not exceed 750 words** and must include **3 parts**:

- 1) **Cover Page**- A cover page must be submitted with the essay containing the follow information: (Note- The student's name and information should appear on the cover page **ONLY**. This page does **not** count towards the 750 word limit).

(A) Student's Name and Grade	(B) Student's Home Address	(C) Home Phone Number
(D) Parent's Email Address	(E) Name of School	(F) School Address
(G) School Phone Number	(H) Teacher's Name and Class	(I) Teacher's Email Address
- 2) **Essay Pages**- Be sure to focus on one specific biomedical breakthrough. Investigate the process of biomedical research, including the role of animals in that research, that ultimately led to that new treatment or cure. This will allow you to learn how medicines, medical devices, and/or surgical procedures are developed with the help of animal models and human clinical trials. Be sure to consider the wide range of topics available including human and veterinary treatments. Pages shall not exceed 750 words. Plagiarism is prohibited.
- 3) **References Page**- A works cited or bibliography page must be included at the end of the essay. This page does **not** count towards the 750 word limit.

- * Please save your final document with your last name, underscore, first name. Ex: *Smith_John.docx*
- * Please submit all 3 of these essay components in one document. Do **not** submit 3 separate documents.

SUBMISSION: Entries must be *emailed* by **11:59pm on March 8, 2026**

Email to: contests@psbr.org Subject Line: High School Essay Contest

JUDGING: A sample judging rubric is available on our website: www.psbr.org > *Contests* > *Essay Contest*

AWARDS: Previous first place winners are not eligible to win.

FIRST place will be awarded \$500, plus an invitation to awards event**
SECOND place will be awarded \$400, plus an invitation to awards event**
THIRD place will be awarded \$300, plus an invitation to awards event**

**The Annual Awards
Dinner will be held in
Hershey, PA on Friday,
June 19, 2026.

RESOURCES: Reliable websites with background reference materials and PDFs for preparing an essay may be obtained on our website at www.psbr.org > *Resources* > *Biomedical Research Information*. Additional questions can be emailed to us at contests@psbr.org or by calling 717-731-3559.