

Middle School 2026 Essay Contest

OPEN TO PENNSYLVANIA, WEST VIRGINIA and DELAWARE STUDENTS: 6th, 7th, & 8th GRADE
3 WINNERS - \$1,200 in prizes

PURPOSE: To recognize students who demonstrate an understanding of the biomedical research process, and how it contributes to human and animal health.

WRITING TOPIC: "WHAT IS BIOMEDICAL RESEARCH?"

Think, Research, Write! Select a disease, treatment, cure, medical device, or advancement and explore how biomedical research, including the role of animal models, helped advance your chosen topic. How does this research improve the health of humans and animals? What methods are used in biomedical research? What are the current and future needs? A rubric is available on our website.

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:

- | | | |
|------------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| (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 |

Note: The student's name and information should appear on the cover page ONLY. This page does not count towards the 750 word limit.

2) **Essay Pages-** Entries are judged on originality, creativity, and clarity; command of the English language; understanding of the biomedical research process; and the role of animals in such research. Essay 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: Middle 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