



2023 Teen Diversity Essay Contest Application

First Name: _____ Last Name: _____
 Address: _____
 Address: _____
 Town: _____
 School: _____ Grade: _____
 Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____
 Email Address: _____
 Essay Title: _____
 Essay Submission Date: _____

Essay Submission Process

1. Essay Topic and Charge

- **Topic:** "The Dialogue Challenge"
- **Charge:**
"Team Westport's Mission is to make Westport a more welcoming community with regard to race, religion, ethnicity, and LGBTQIA+. In order to achieve its Mission, one of TEAM Westport's goals has been to promote opportunities for people to come together in dialogue to better understand each other's experiences, decrease bias, and learn what we have in common. Meaningful dialogue depends on a good faith effort to set aside preconceived beliefs or what we think we know about other people."

In 1,000 words or less, reflect on your own interactions with people who have different racial, ethnic, religious, LGBTQIA+ identities and /or perspectives. What kinds of conversations were particularly helpful in prompting you to rethink your beliefs or opinions, perhaps causing you to change your mind or enabling you to better understand others' points of view? Based on these experiences, what specific actions would you suggest that individuals, schools, and/or Town entities in Westport take to promote good-faith dialogue, reduce bias, and foster understanding? "

2. Submit the following together as a complete package:

- a. Completed application with signatures of student and parent/guardian.
- b. An essay according to the "Essay Topic and Charge" stated above.
 - Essay should
 - be double-spaced
 - with title in the header of each page
 - along with author's name, page number and submission date in the footer

3. Mail the package to:

TEAM Westport Essay Contest
c/o Human Services Department
Westport Town Hall, 110 Myrtle Ave, Westport CT 06880 [Postmark Deadline: 11:59 pm Feb. 28,2023]
 OR
 Scan completed application & Email package to info@teamwestport.org. [Email Deadline: 11:59 pm Feb. 28, 2023]

All applicants must be grade 9-12 students who are Westport residents **or** attend a Westport school (public or private).

1. All submissions become the property of TEAM Westport and the Town of Westport, CT.
2. The applicant **and** parent/guardian certify that the essay being submitted is exclusively the work of the applicant.
3. If the applicant's essay is chosen for one of the prizes the applicant and parent/guardian agree that they will make themselves available for photographs and/or videos and such photos and/or videos as well as the essay may be used for publicity including media distribution by TEAM Westport, the Westport Library and the Town of Westport.
4. Awards ceremony for this contest will take place on April 18, 2023 at the Westport Library. Winners will be contacted prior to the event.

Signatures

By signing below, the applicant and their parent/guardian certify their agreement to the above terms, as well as to the validity of the information submitted.

Applicant Signature: _____

Parent/Guardian Name (Pls Print): _____

Parent/Guardian Signature _____