



# 2024 MIDDLE SCHOOL WATER ESSAY CONTEST

# GEORGIA'S WATER

**SUBMISSION DEADLINE: OCTOBER 18, 2024**

Metro Atlanta has a unique water story. You may know that water keeps metro Atlanta going and growing. It has been an important part of the success of our economy and central to our region's culture and history, which are some of the many reasons we work so hard to protect our water. In fact, since the creation of the Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District over 20 years ago, the per capita water use has dropped by more than 30%, thanks in part, to the water conservation efforts of metro area residents, utilities, schools, and businesses.

Together with Georgia Public Broadcasting, the Metro Water District has launched the [Georgia Water Virtual Learning Journey](#). Students can discover Georgia's water supply, hydrologic cycle, the impact of climate events like floods and droughts, how water effects the state's economy, how to conserve and protect water resources, and explore careers in the water industry.

For the 2024 Water Essay Contest, we ask middle school students to use the Virtual Learning Journey as an interactive tool to explore Georgia's water resources. Learn more about how water has shaped the region and respond to one of the following essay prompts:

1. Using Georgia Public Broadcasting's Georgia Water Virtual Learning Journey as a primary source, write about why water is important to metro Atlanta and the state of Georgia.
2. Referencing the videos in the Faces of Water section of the Virtual Learning Journey, compare and contrast two careers in the water industry.
3. Explore the Recreation and Wildlife section of the Virtual Learning Journey. Think about water recreation activities you've participated in or learned about. Write a persuasive essay detailing the importance of water conservation and environmental protection for maintaining and enjoying water recreation activities.

## Successful essays will also consider the following facts and resources:

- ◆ In metro Atlanta, our drinking water comes from surface water sources: rivers, lakes, and streams.
- ◆ Think about all the things you do in a day that require water to keep you safe and clean. The average metro-Atlantan uses around 50 gallons of water a day inside their home, most of which is used for drinking, bathing, washing clothes and dishes, and flushing toilets.
- ◆ [Georgia Water Virtual Learning Journey](#) is the primary resource for this essay. There are lesson plans, vocabulary, and student activities, all of which are aligned to the Georgia Standards of Excellence for grades 3-8.
- ◆ Visit [northgeorgiawater.org/essay](http://northgeorgiawater.org/essay) for more information about the contest.

## Teachers, want to dive a little deeper?

We encourage you to perform the "What's Your Standard" activity from Georgia Project WET's Urban Watershed (visit [northgeorgiawater.org/essay](http://northgeorgiawater.org/essay)) with your class to help them gain a better understanding of the natural and manmade infrastructure that keeps our water flowing. You can also check out [discoverwater.org/](http://discoverwater.org/) for nine activities (in English and Spanish) that cover topics such as conservation, hygiene, fresh/salt water, watersheds and more. If you're not familiar with Georgia Project WET, find out more information about this program, the excellent teaching resources it offers, and how you can participate in trainings at [projectwet.georgia.gov](http://projectwet.georgia.gov).



There are also several lesson plans and activities in the Virtual Learning Journey that are aligned to the Georgia Standards of Excellence for grades 3-8. [Explore the support materials for more information.](#)