



2025 MIDDLE SCHOOL WATER ESSAY CONTEST

THE IMPORTANCE OF WASTEWATER MANAGEMENT

District-wide Winner: \$500 | County Winners: \$100

Deadline: October 24, 2025

Sixth, seventh, and eighth graders in Bartow, Cherokee, Clayton, Cobb, Coweta, DeKalb, Douglas, Fayette, Forsyth, Fulton, Gwinnett, Hall, Henry, Paulding and Rockdale counties are invited to participate in the Metro Water District's annual essay contest.

Essay Topic

For the 2025 Middle School Water Essay Contest, we ask middle school students to think about what happens to water after it is flushed down the toilet or drains into the sink. Then, answer one of the following prompts:

1. Briefly describe the wastewater treatment process. Why is wastewater treatment an important part of the region's water systems? How can returning treated wastewater to our rivers and reservoirs benefit our natural water sources?
2. Just because you can flush something down the toilet doesn't mean that you should. Using the resources below, write about what can and cannot be flushed down the toilet and why. Silly and funny (but *appropriate*) answers are ok! You may also consider reading about the **WIPES Act** and writing a letter to persuade your senator to vote.

Guidelines

- Essays must be typed. If there are any special circumstances requiring a hand-written essay, please contact education@northgeorgiawater.org.
- Each essay must be submitted with an entry form.
- Essays must be each student's original work. Plagiarized essays will not be considered. Essays written using AI or similar programs will not be considered.
- All essays must be received no later than: **October 24, 2025**
- Essays must be submitted online at www.northgeorgiawater.org/essay. If there are any special circumstances requiring essays be submitted by mail, please contact education@northgeorgiawater.org.

Prizes

One winner from each of the 15 counties as well as the City of Atlanta will receive \$100. The District-wide winner will be selected from among the county and city winners to receive an additional \$400 for a total prize of \$500.

Judging

Entries will be judged on their creativity, clarity and content. Essays without complete name and contact information will be disqualified. A judging committee will be comprised of staff from the Metro Water District and its partner organizations.

Awards Reception

County and City of Atlanta winners will be notified in November. An awards and recognition ceremony is planned for the morning of December 16, 2025. District staff will notify winners about the ceremony, as details are still being finalized.

For more information

Go to www.NorthGeorgiaWater.org or see the contest information flyer for more details. The Georgia Water Virtual Learning Journey, created in partnership with Georgia Public Broadcasting, includes a toolkit of curriculum guides for teachers and students. In particular, the Water Purification Investigation activity is written to correlate with **Georgia Standards S6E6 (6th grade), S7L4 (7th grade), and S8P1 (8th grade)**:

- Teacher Guide: Water Purification Investigation
- Student Guide: Water Purification Structured Investigation

We also encourage you to perform the "What's Your Standard" activity from Georgia Project WET's Urban Watershed (visit www.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 for nine activities (in English and Spanish) that cover topics such as conservation, hygiene, fresh/salt water, watersheds and more.



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Explore the support materials for more information.