

Student Version- 2018-19 Essay Contest Rules

This year's essay contest topic is ***“Making it happen at the Farmers’ Market”***

All rules, promotional materials, county Farm Bureau contacts, lessons and activities, and other resources related to the essay contest and book program can be found at

www.wisagclassroom.org under Teacher

You can use the 2019 Book of the Year ***“Fresh-Picked Poetry”*** for ideas and perspectives you could cover. But that is not a requirement! Including poetry, as the book does, might be a fun way is acceptable but not required.

Because of the broad nature of this topic, you might consider, **but are not limited to**, some of these sub-topics as you write your essay:

- How farmers raise the products sold at the farmers’ markets. Visit a farm, look online or go to a farmers’ market and ask farmers how they grow their products.
- Focusing on the different products you can find at farmers’ markets. You may concentrate on your area, during various seasons, in other parts of the state, or in other parts of the country. Do you know someone who lives in another part of the country that you could contact to ask what they buy at their local markets? You can also go online to visit other markets.
- How are farmers’ markets organized and what needs to be done by the vendors, promoters and customers? Contact your local farmers’ market manager and interview them using these questions.
- Visit a few farmers’ markets. What else happens at or during the market? Is there entertainment? Educational events? Are they part of another community event?
- What else, besides vegetables and fruit, might you find at a farmers’ market? You might expand on that.
- Interview producers who sell at farmers’ markets and tell their story! How did they decide to sell that way? What type of farm do they have? What is their background?

Use your imagination and creativity to think of other items to write about!

Contest Rules:

- The essay contest is open to 4th and 5th grade students in public schools, private schools, and home school programs. Students involved in 4-H, PALS and after school programs are also encouraged to participate.
- Essays must be handwritten in ink **or** be computer generated. They must be single-sided and fit on one sheet of paper.
- The essay must be between 100 to 300 words in length.
- Essays will be judged on content (50 points), grammar and spelling (25 points) and originality and creativity (25 points).
- Essays must include: student’s name, grade level, parent’s name, teacher’s name, school name and address, school phone number, teacher’s email address and county on the back of the essay. Please do not identify the student on the front side.
- **Entry deadline - Postmarked by April 1, 2019**

When you get done, count the number of words in your essay (or use Word Count) and write that on your entry information on the back of your essay.