

*Please attach the entry form
securely to the back of the entry.*



PROMOTE THE VOTE 2015 **WRITING CONTESTS**

7-9 Essay: If I Were Elected, I Would...

7-9 Editorial: Fix It

10-12 Essay: If I Were Elected Governor

**10-12 Editorial: The Most Important
Thing Mississippi Needs to Do Is...**

The Writing Contests provide Mississippi students a chance to express their views on important issues facing the State of Mississippi and roll Mississippi's top elected official can play in addressing those issues. Essays should express the student's original thoughts in a 500 to 1000 word written document. The Editorial entries should be limited to no more than 750 words.

First, second, and third place winners will be selected in each contest. Judges may also choose to bestow Honorable Mention honors. The Secretary of State's Office will not return submitted entries. Please keep a copy for the student's records.

WRITING CONTESTS JUDGING PROCESS

Student writers' names and addresses will be kept secret from the judges.

- Entries not conforming to the Official Rules of the Contest will be ineligible for competition.
- Entries will be judged for content, original thought, power of expression, writing style and grammar.
- A panel of judges will be selected by the Secretary of State's Office.

WRITING CONTESTS OFFICIAL RULES

1. All entries must be received by the Secretary of State's office in Jackson no later than Monday, Nov. 30, 2015.
2. Entries may be mailed to the Promote the Vote Writing Contests, Secretary of State's Office, Post Office Box 136, Jackson, MS 39205 or hand-delivered to the First Floor Receptionst, 225 S. Congress St., Jackson.
3. Entries must be typed, single-spaced, on 8.5 x 11 (letter size) paper and multiple pages should be paper clipped rather than stapled. An adult may type the entry for the student.
4. All pages must be numbered in the upper right hand corner.
5. Contestants must be in Grades 7-12 in a school registered for Promote the Vote 2015.
6. The entry must be the original thought and composition of the contestant alone.
7. Direct quotations from sources must be properly attributed.
8. Only one entry per contest may be submitted by each contestant. Students may enter multiple contests.
9. Each entry must be accompanied by the entry application.
10. Failure to comply with any rule will result in disqualification.