

# IT'S JUST A TOILET!



## MWRA ANNUAL CONTEST (Poster, Writing and Video)

**Topic for all contests -  
"It's a Toilet Not a Wastebasket!"**

Posters will be judged in 3 categories: Gr. K-2, 3-5, and 6-8  
Writing entries will be judged in 2 categories: Gr. 3-5 and 6-8  
Video entries will be judged in 1 category: Gr. 9-12

Entries must be postmarked by Wednesday, March 12, 2014.  
Early entries are encouraged!

Mail entries to - MWRA School Program, 2 Griffin Way, Chelsea, MA 02150

To see if you are eligible to participate, to obtain official rules, and to download forms and student labels, visit us on-line at [www.mwra.com](http://www.mwra.com) and follow the link to the School Program page.



**MWRA School Contest  
2 Griffin Way  
Chelsea, MA 02150**

Dear Educator,

It's time again for the MWRA Annual Poster, Writing & Video Contests. The contest helps students make the connection between the environment and their faucets and drains. I hope you will consider participating.

The topic for this year's contest is **It's a Toilet – Not a Wastebasket**. Specifically, students are being asked to create a poster, essay, poem, or video to get the word out that items that are not designed to be flushed down the toilet are causing problems in home plumbing systems as well as the sewerage system and even at some wastewater treatment facilities. Posters will be judged in 3 categories: grades K-2, 3-5, and 6-8. Writing entries will be judged in 2 categories: grades 3-5 and 6-8. Videos will be judged in just one category, grades 9-12.

The **contest deadline** is – **Wednesday, March 12, 2014**. Early entries are encouraged and can be sent at any time. All entries must be mailed to:

**MWRA School Contest  
2 Griffin Way  
Chelsea, MA 02150**

The contest is open to any student who lives in or attends a school located in the MWRA Service Area. To see if you are eligible to participate, to obtain official rules, and to download forms and student labels, visit us online at [www.mwra.com](http://www.mwra.com) and follow the link to the School Program page.

Please post the enclosed flyer in your classroom.

Please don't hesitate to contact me at [meg.tabacsko@mwra.com](mailto:meg.tabacsko@mwra.com) or at 617-305-5646 if you have any questions or need additional information. Good luck!

Sincerely,

Meg Tabacsko, Manager  
MWRA School Education Program

## 2013/14 MWRA Poster, Writing & Video Contest Rules & Details

### Poster Contest



Question	Answer
Who is eligible for the contest?	All Massachusetts students in grades K-8 who attend school in one of MWRA's service communities and/or any student who lives in the MWRA district. Prizes are awarded in three categories: K-2, 3-5, and 6-8. All artwork must be the student's work, and only individual (not group) entries will be accepted. Only one entry per student.
How will entries be judged?	Judging is based on originality, clarity of message, use of materials, and quality of work.
What size should entries be?	Posters should be no smaller than 8 ½ x 11 and no larger than 18 x 24. <b>Note:</b> Posters will be returned only if indicated on the registration form.

### Writing Contest



Question	Answer
Who is eligible for the contest?	All Massachusetts students in grades 3-8 who attend school in one of MWRA's service communities and/or live in the MWRA district. Prizes will be awarded in two categories: 3-5 and 6-8. Only individual (not group) entries will be accepted.
How will entries be judged?	Judging is based on factual accuracy, originality, creativity, clarity of thought, readability and persuasiveness.
How long should entries be?	Entries should be no longer than two single-sided pages and may be typed or written neatly in ink. <b>Note:</b> Writing entries will not be returned.

### Video Contest



Question	Answer
Who is eligible for the contest?	All Massachusetts students in grades 9-12 who attend school in one of MWRA's service communities and/or live in the MWRA district. Prizes will be awarded in one category: 9-12. Students may work individually or in groups of no more than four.
How will entries be judged?	Judging is based on factual accuracy, originality, creativity, clarity of thought, and persuasiveness.
How long should entries be?	Entries should be 2-3 minutes long. <b>Note:</b> Entries will not be returned and may be posted on YouTube.

### All Contests

Question	Answer
When is the contest deadline?	Entries must be postmarked by <b>Wednesday, March 12, 2014</b> . Early entries encouraged.
What are the packaging instructions?	A Student Label must be attached to each entry. The label must be taped or glued securely to the back of the entry (no paper clips or staples). You may create your own label or neatly write information on the back of the entry as long as all information is included. Teachers must fill in the Contest Registration Form stating the grade level(s) and number of entries. If there are entries from more than one grade level, fill out separate forms.

<b>Can entries be dropped off at the MWRA?</b>	We prefer entries be mailed to: MWRA School Program, 2 Griffin Way, Chelsea, MA 02150. Entries may be dropped off in Chelsea between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m., Monday through Friday only.
<b>What are the prizes?</b>	The first place winner(s) in each category receives a \$100 gift check. Second prize is a \$50 check and third prize is a \$25 check. Honorable Mention Awards will recognize other outstanding entries and each student who participates receives a certificate.
<b>When will winners be announced?</b>	Winners will be notified by mid April. Prizes will be awarded at a ceremony on <b>Friday, May 23, 2014</b> at the Deer Island Treatment Plant. Contest winners, their families, teachers and principals are all invited to attend the ceremony.
<b>Where can I get more information?</b>	For information or to download forms, go to <a href="http://www.mwra.com">www.mwra.com</a> and click on <b>school program</b> .

## Frequently Asked Contest Questions (teachers)

**Q. What is the topic for this year's contest?**

A. It's a Toilet, Not a Wastebasket.

**Q. Does the entire class have to participate?**

A. While some teachers have their entire class participate, others make it optional or offer it as a means of extra credit. If you only have a few entries, we do ask that you still complete the Contest Registration Form and make sure the students fill out the Student Label and attach it securely to the back of the entry.

**Q. Where do I get the Registration Form and Student Labels?**

A. You can download all the information from the School Program section of [mwra.com](http://mwra.com). In late November/early December, 2013, we will mail contest formation packets to teachers on the MWRA's database. If you would like to be added to the database, please contact Meg Tabacsko at [meg.tabacsko@mwra.com](mailto:meg.tabacsko@mwra.com).

**Q. If the entire class participates, should I sort through and only send in the best?**

A. No, please send them all. This helps us know how many students took part in the contest and enables us to send a Certificate of Participation to every entrant. Please note: we send blank certificates of participation for you, the teacher, to fill in the names.

**Q. May I assist my students in any way?**

A. We encourage class discussion to make sure the students stay on topic, but we ask that all work be done by the students themselves. We do allow teachers to assist students in grade K-2 with labeling and mounting of posters.

**Q. How do I find more information on this topic?**

A. Check out <http://news.wef.org/stop-dont-flush-that/>. Do a web search for "problems with disposable wipes" and you'll find more than 267,000 results in a matter of seconds. Search "fatberg" to find out about problems in London's sewerage system.

**Q. Do posters have to be labeled and mounted?**

A. No, but posters must be no smaller than 8.5" X 11" and no larger than 18" X 24".

**Q. Must the writing entries be done on a computer?**

A. No, they can be written neatly in ink. Writing entries should be no longer than 2 pages and use only one side of the paper.

**Q. When is the contest deadline?**

A. The contest deadline is **Wednesday, March 12, 2014**. Entries must be postmarked by this date and early entries are encouraged. Entries should be mailed to: **MWRA School Contest, 2 Griffin Way, Chelsea, MA 02150**

**Questions about the Video Contest**

**Q. What makes a good video?**

A. A successful video will be on topic, informative, accurate and entertaining.

**Q. Is there anything that students should avoid including in their videos?**

A. While this year's topic is sewer-related, videos must be in good taste. **Do not include** imagery or depictions of dirty toilets, urine, fecal matter or used personal care products.

**Q. Do students entering the video contest need to sign a release?**

A. All video entries must be accompanied by a signed release form, included at the end of this packet. If a student is under 18, a parent or guardian must give MWRA permission to use his or her video. If working in a team, each member of your group must submit a signed release form along with the video.

**Q. Can I use clips from copyrighted commercials, movies or television shows or music?**

A. Students may only include clips from copyrighted commercials, movies, television shows, music, or on-line videos if they obtain copyright permission. They must verify that their video contains no copyrighted material in their signed release form. The form is included at the end of this packet.

**Q. Can students work on the video contest in groups?**

A. Students may work alone or in teams of no more than four people.

**Q. How long can a video be?**

A. The video should be no longer than 3 minutes. Videos longer than 3 minutes will not be judged.

**Q. What format should the video be in?**

A. Please send us one copy of your video on a DVD.

**Q. How will my video be judged?**

A. MWRA staff will view all entries received and select the top ten percent to be reviewed by a judging panel which will rank the videos based on factual accuracy, creativity, originality, entertainment value and persuasiveness.

**MWRA School Contest  
2 Griffin Way  
Chelsea, MA 02150**

**If you still have questions, contact Meg Tabacsko at [meg.tabacsko@mwra.com](mailto:meg.tabacsko@mwra.com).**

## **Student Information**

### **General Questions about the Poster/Writing/Video Contests**

**Q. What are the Contest Topics?**

**A.** The topic for all contests this year is: **It's a Toilet, Not a Wastebasket!**

**Q. Where do I find information about this topic?**

**A.** Talk to family members and friends. They may have some personal stories about this topic. Visit your school or local library. Check out the web.

**Q. What are the prizes?**

**A.** First prize in each category is a \$100.00 gift check, 2<sup>nd</sup> prize is a \$50.00 check, and 3<sup>rd</sup> prize is a \$25.00 check. In the poster contest there are (3) categories Gr. K-2, 3-5, and 6-8. In the writing contest there are (2) categories are Gr. 3-5 and 6-8. In the video contest there is just one category: Gr. 9-12. In each of the (6) categories there are 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, and (3) honorable mention winners. All winners, including honorable mention winners, are invited with their families to an Awards Ceremony at Deer Island on May 23, 2014.

Everyone who enters the contest will receive a Certificate of Participation – suitable for framing!

**Q. What information needs to be included with my poster, writing, and/or video entry?**

**A.** All posters, writing, and video entries must have a completed Student Label attached to the back of the entry. Labels should be taped or glued to the back of the entry (not paper clipped or stapled). Please do not attach labels to the front of the entries. You may create your own label or neatly write information on the back of your entry as long as all the information requested on the student label is included.

**Q. Where do I get a Student Label?**

**A.** Ask your teacher for one or you can download labels from the School Program section of [mwra.com](http://mwra.com).

**Q. May I submit more than one entry?**

**A.** If you are in grades 3-8, you may enter both the poster and writing contests. You may only submit one poster, one writing entry, or one video.



**Q. Can friends work together?**

**A.** Only individual work will be accepted for posters and writing entries. Up to four students can work together on videos.

**Q. Will my entry be returned?**

**A.** Posters will only be returned if requested. Writing and Video entries will not be returned.

**Questions about the Poster Contest**

**Q. What makes a good poster?**

**A.** Make sure your poster is on topic. Don't try to include too many ideas or activities on your poster. A single message, clearly illustrated, is more effective. If you use lettering, make sure it can be read from across a room.

**Q. Do posters have to be drawings?**

**A.** No, posters can be any form of art you choose to express the topic. You can create a collage with pictures cut out of a magazine, you can use pieces of fabric or you can create a drawing using markers, crayons, paints, or charcoal. We are looking for unique and creative works of art.

Posters must be no smaller than 8.5" X 11" and no bigger than 18" X 24". Be sure to attach a Student Label to the back of your poster.

**Q. How will my poster be judged?**

**A.** MWRA staff will select the strongest posters from the entries in each category. Then a panel of judges will score the posters on originality, clarity of message, creative and artistic use of materials, and quality of work.

**Questions about the Writing Contest**

**Q. What makes a good writing entry?**

**A.** First, be sure your entry addresses the question. As good as a piece might be, if it isn't on topic, it can't win a prize. Then, use your creativity to make your entry stand out. The reader should remember your work because there was something unique about it. An essay can be just as creative as a poem or dialogue, if it has a clear theme and develops it cleverly.

**Q. How long should my writing entry be?**

A. Writing entries are limited to two pages. Entries may be written neatly in ink or typed on a computer. Please use only one side of the paper and be sure to attach a Student Label securely to the back of your entry.

**Q. How will my writing entry be judged?**

A. MWRA staff will select the best entries in each category. Copies will be given to a judging panel, which will first read and rate them and then meet to decide the winners. Writing entries will be judged on factual accuracy, creativity, originality and persuasiveness.

### **Questions about the Video Contest**

**Q. What makes a good video?**

A. A successful video will be on topic, informative, accurate and entertaining.

**Q. Is there anything that students should avoid including in their videos?**

A. While this year's topic is sewer-related, videos must be in good taste. **Do not include** imagery or depictions of dirty toilets, urine, fecal matter or used personal care products.

**Q. Do students entering the video contest need to sign a release?**

A. All video entries must be accompanied by a signed release form, included at the end of this packet. If a student is under 18, a parent or guardian must give MWRA permission to use his or her video. If working in a team, each member of your group must submit a signed release form along with the video.

**Q. Can I use clips from copyrighted commercials, movies or television shows or music?**

A. Students may only include clips from copyrighted commercials, movies, television shows, music, or on-line videos if they obtain copyright permission. They must verify that their video contains no copyrighted material in their signed release form. The form is included at the end of this packet.

**Q. Can students work on the video contest in groups?**

A. Students may work alone or in teams of no more than four people.

**Q. How long can a video be?**

A. The video should be no longer than 3 minutes. Videos longer than 3 minutes will not be judged.

**Q. What format should the video be in?**

A. Please send us one copy of your video on a DVD.

**Q. How will my video be judged?**

A. MWRA staff will view all entries received and select the top ten percent to be reviewed by a judging panel which will rank the videos based on factual accuracy, creativity, originality, and persuasiveness.

**MWRA SCHOOL CONTEST STUDENT LABEL**

**Student Label**

Student's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ \*Grade \_\_\_\_\_  
\*School: \_\_\_\_\_  
\*Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\*City: \_\_\_\_\_ \*Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
\*Teacher: \_\_\_\_\_  
\*Phone: ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_

**Student Label**

Student's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ \*Grade \_\_\_\_\_  
\*School: \_\_\_\_\_  
\*Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\*City: \_\_\_\_\_ \*Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
\*Teacher: \_\_\_\_\_  
\*Phone: ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_

**Student Label**

Student's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ \*Grade \_\_\_\_\_  
\*School: \_\_\_\_\_  
\*Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\*City: \_\_\_\_\_ \*Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
\*Teacher: \_\_\_\_\_  
\*Phone: ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_

**Student Label**

Student's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ \*Grade \_\_\_\_\_  
\*School: \_\_\_\_\_  
\*Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\*City: \_\_\_\_\_ \*Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
\*Teacher: \_\_\_\_\_  
\*Phone: ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_

**\* TEACHER MAY COMPLETE THESE BLANKS PRIOR TO COPYING**

## 2013/14 MWRA Contest Registration Form

To be completed by the teacher and submitted with every packet of entries. Each individual entry must have a Student Label attached to the back of the entry.  
(Please print)

School Name: \_\_\_\_\_

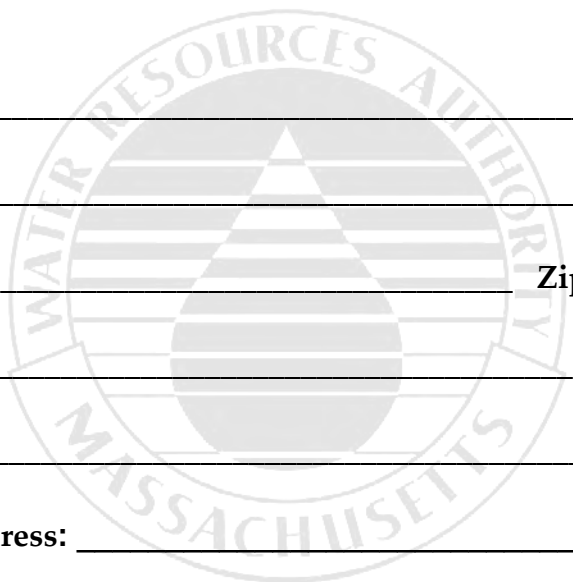
School Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/Town: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip code: \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher: \_\_\_\_\_

School Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher's Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_



Fill in the entry information in the table below:

Entry Type	Number of Entries Included	Grade
Poster *		
Writing		
Video		

\* Posters will only be returned if indicated below. If nothing is indicated, the posters will be recycled. Please return posters: YES \_\_\_ NO \_\_\_

All entries should be sent to: **MWRA School Contest**  
2 Griffin Way  
Chelsea, MA 02150

<b>FOR OFFICE USE ONLY</b>	
Entries Received: _____	Entered on Database: _____
Certificates Sent: _____	



# MASSACHUSETTS WATER RESOURCES AUTHORITY

## VIDEO CONTEST 2013/2014

### RELEASE AND AUTHORIZATION FORM

We \_\_\_\_\_ (student), and \_\_\_\_\_ (parent/guardian) hereby assign and transfer all rights and copyrights to any and all original, creative works ("Work") by the undersigned student, including any video tape and/or sound recordings which are a part of the Work to and for the use and benefit of the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority ("MWRA") in connection with the above-referenced contest. In addition, each of the undersigned hereby authorizes MWRA the unrestricted right to display, reproduce, exhibit, broadcast and/or distribute the Work ("Re-Publication") without limitation and release MWRA from any and all claims for any compensation for the Work or for any Re-Publication thereof by the student, parent(s) or other contributors to the Work.

If the Work contains copyrighted material, student and parent/guardian represent to MWRA that appropriate permission has been obtained for the use of such material and have attached evidence of that permission to this document. In consideration of the foregoing assignment of the Work and release of any claims, MWRA grants to the named student the non-exclusive, royalty-free right to use and claim the Work for the sole purpose of attributing its creation to the student and/or for the purpose of exhibiting a copy of the Work in any portfolio of the student or for any other non-commercial purpose or use thereof.

The undersigned parent hereby certifies that he/she is over the age of twenty-one (21) years and is willing to bind both parent/legal guardian and student to the foregoing terms concerning the Work.

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Signature of Student)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Date)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Signature of Parent/Guardian)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Date)

Please check one of the following:

\_\_\_\_\_ No copyrighted material or content is contained in the Work.

\_\_\_\_\_ Permission to use copyrighted material or content in the Work is attached.