



Whatcom County Association of REALTORS®  
 Whatcom County High School  
 Essay Contest



Entries must be postmarked/e-mailed by April 23, 2017  
 Include this Entry Form, complete with parent's signature, with your essay.

STUDENT INFORMATION:

LAST NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ FIRST NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

MAILING ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP CODE: \_\_\_\_\_ Whatcom County Resident: Yes No

TELEPHONE (include Area Code): \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

SCHOOL: \_\_\_\_\_ GRAD. YEAR: \_\_\_\_\_

(If homeschooled, please indicate)

ESSAY INFORMATION

ESSAY TITLE: \_\_\_\_\_

ESSAY WORD COUNT (Must be 1,000 Words or Less): \_\_\_\_\_

**STUDENT HONOR STATEMENT:** This essay represents my own work. I am eligible to participate in the Whatcom County Association of REALTORS® Essay Contest and have read and understand the rules as made available to me. I understand that my essay will become the property of the Whatcom County Association of REALTORS® to use in its discretion, including publication, that the essay will not be returned to me, and that the decision of the judges is final. I also authorize the Whatcom County Association of REALTORS® to use my name to identify the author of the essay.

STUDENT'S SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

**PARENT'S PERMISSION (REQUIRED IF STUDENT IS UNDER 18 YEARS OF AGE!)**: By signing this, I agree to allow the Whatcom County Association of REALTORS® to use and publish my student's (child's) essay as submitted to the Whatcom County Association of REALTORS®. I further authorize the Whatcom County Association of REALTORS® to use my student's/child's name to identify the author of the essay. I certify that I have read and understand the rules as made available to me. I further understand that my student's/child's essay will become the property of the Whatcom County Association of REALTORS® to use in its discretion, including publication, that the essay will not be returned, and that the decision of the judges is final. I further release the Whatcom County Association of REALTORS® from any claims that arise in connection with the use of the original essay. I have read the above statements and fully agree to the contents.

Parent's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent's Printed Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_



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### Official Rules:

**Topic:** Private Property Rights: Have American citizens lost the ability to own private property and what does it mean for our nation's future?

**About the award:** The Whatcom County Association of REALTORS® is a 501(c)(6) non-profit educational association for individuals working in the real estate industry. Locally, the REALTORS® advocate for expanded opportunities for property ownership, affordable housing, and protection of rights commonly associated with private property. Through this contest, the Association hopes to increase students' knowledge and understanding of the importance of private property rights in our democratic society and in our daily lives.

**Who is eligible to participate:** All Whatcom County students enrolled in grades 9-12 in public, private, and home schools within the County. Students must submit original work.

**Format:** Write a persuasive essay answering the question posed in the Topic above. The essay must not be more than 1,000 words. Entries may be typed or handwritten but must be double-spaced.

**Entering:** Entries may be submitted one of two ways:

1) Send mailed entries to:

Whatcom County Association of REALTORS®

Attn: R. Perry Eskridge

3317 Northwest Ave

Bellingham, WA 98225

(This address works for FedEx, UPS, DHL)

2) E-mail entries to: [info@wcar.net](mailto:info@wcar.net)

State "PPR Contest" in the RE: line.

Acceptable formats for the essay are .doc and .docx

The Entry Form can be submitted as a PDF

All essays must be accompanied by a completed Entry Form (above) to be considered. Failure to provide an Entry Form will disqualify the essay from consideration. The Entry Form must be submitted at the same time as the essay.

**Deadline:** Postmark/e-mail deadline: April 23, 2017

### Official rules:

#### Section I – General Rules

1. Contestants must enter through one of the two methods specified above.
2. Contestants must compose an original essay with limited guidance from others.
3. The Association will have the right to edit, publish or otherwise duplicate any essay entered into the contest without payment to the author.
4. Only the winner will be contacted with the results. Depending on the number of entries, and in the Association's sole discretion, other contestants may be contacted with the results.
5. Essays will become the property of Whatcom County Association of REALTORS®. Essays may be posted to the Association's websites or appear in Association publications or publicity. **The winner's name will appear in related newsletters, publicity and announcements without payment to the author and the author, by submitting the essay, relinquishes any rights in the essay to the Association.**
6. There is a single \$1,000 prize. There are no substitutions and the winner is responsible for all taxes, fees, or other expenses incurred as a result of the prize award. The Winner will be required to provide sufficient information to allow the Association to complete IRS Form 1099 for the award. In the event the Winner is under the age of 18, the prize will be awarded to the Winner's parent for the benefit of the Winner.

#### Section II – Qualifications for Contestants

1. The contest is open to all students in grades 9-12 in public, private and home schools within Whatcom County.



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2. Contestants may submit only one essay. Duplicate entries, mailed and/or e-mailed, will disqualify the Contestant from consideration.

3. The Contestant must submit a completed Entry Form at the time of submission of the essay for consideration. Essays submitted without a completed Entry Form attached will not be considered.

**Section III – Contest Rules**

1. Contestants must write on the official topic.

2. Each entry must include the Entry Form.

3. Essays may be typewritten or legibly handwritten but must be double-spaced. The font must be 12 point Times New Roman (or equivalent) if typewritten.

4. Essays must be no longer than 1,000 words. Every word of the essay, regardless of length, is counted. The word count should not include the title, bibliography or footnotes if included. Entries submitted electronically will be counted using MS Word "Word Count;" Type-written and handwritten entries will be manually counted. All entries will be reviewed for adjustments to word counts made for the above exceptions (title, etc.).

5. Any quotations or copyrighted material used in the essay must be identified properly. Failure to identify non-original material will result in disqualification.

6. Essays must be written in English.

7. Mailed entries must be stapled together in the upper left-hand corner.

8. Any protest in the conduct of the contest must be made immediately. The Whatcom County Association of REALTORS® executive director will decide all protests in conformity with the contest rules. The decision of the executive director is final, and no higher appeals will be recognized.

**Section IV – Judging and Scoring**

1. Judging will be completed by a panel of qualified judges.

2. Judges will not discuss or compare essays being judged until all essays have been judged.

3. Only judges can assign a penalty or award points.

Scoring procedures at all levels of the contest will be identical.

4. Material Organization (Logical interpretation of the subject, adherence to topic): 40 points

5. Vocabulary and Style (Phrasing and continuity): 30 points

6. Grammar, Punctuation, Spelling: 20 points

7. Neatness: 5 points

8. Adherence to contest rules (prepared in the proper format): 5 points