



Kentucky Association of School Administrators  
152 Consumer Lane, Frankfort, KY 40601  
Ph. (800) 928-5272 \* <http://www.kasa.org>

# THE EXTRA DEGREE

## Student Writing Contest for Grades K-12

### Message to Teachers & Principals:

The time has arrived for KASA's 7th Annual Student Writing Contest. This year's contest, entitled *The Extra Degree*, provides the opportunity for students to reflect on the tremendous difference educators make in their lives. At 211 degrees, water is hot. At 212 degrees, it boils. And with boiling water, comes steam. And steam can power a locomotive.

It is with this extra degree in mind that the contest encourages students to write about a teacher, administrator or an adult mentor or role model in a public school who has made a tremendous difference in their lives. The individual should be one who always gives that extra degree of effort to inspire students to believe in themselves and achieve at higher levels than they thought possible on their own.

The contest has been designed to complement writing portfolios—giving students an authentic audience and purpose for writing.

The goal of the contest is to recognize student excellence and to honor some of Kentucky's outstanding educators. (*Note: Contest guidelines are listed on page two.*)

We hope you and your students will participate in the contest, and we encourage you to share any feedback that would improve the overall process. A student message and contest guidelines follow.

First place contest winners will be invited to read their stories of inspiration at KASA's annual conference, July 16-18, 2008, and receive a \$100 gift card and distinguished trophy. Role models featured in the winning entries will also be recognized at the event.

### Message to Students:

KASA's 2008 writing contest theme is *The Extra Degree*. As you work toward the goals you set at school and in life, who has inspired you to go the extra degree to achieve at higher levels? Who has motivated you to overcome barriers and meet the challenges you face each day? Who is giving that extra degree of commitment to your educational growth and development? Who has encouraged you to step out of your comfort zone and reach for the stars?

Through the format of your choice, please WRITE about this special SCHOOL person in your life. The individual may be a teacher, a support staff person (e.g., instructional assistant, bus driver, etc.), or a principal. The person you choose to write about must be an adult who has worked with you at your current school or a previous school you attended.

In your writing, please identify the relationship you share with this special school person and how he or she has helped you be successful. (*Note: Contest guidelines are listed on page two.*)

Please submit your contest entry to your teacher or principal.

*Do not mail it to the KASA office.*



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## Student Writing Contest for Grades K-12, *Continued*

### Criteria & Contest Guidelines

1. All entries must be handwritten or typed and submitted on an 8 ½" x 11" size sheet of paper.
2. Typed entries must be single spaced with a minimum 12-point font size.
3. Length: Grades K-5 one-page maximum / Grades 6-12 two-page maximum.
4. Students select appropriate format for writing purpose (e.g., memoir, personal narrative, persuasive piece, etc.).
5. Content should focus on a classified or certified staff member in a Kentucky school, presently working or retired, who has gone the extra degree to influence the student's academic success. Content should clearly identify the relationship of the student and his/her role model and how that role model relates to the student's educational success.
6. Each school may submit **one (1)** essay from grades K-2, 3-5, 6-8, or 9-12.
7. The following identification information must be written or typed in the upper right-hand corner of the entry: student's name, school name, grade level, and principal's name.
8. School's final contest entry should be submitted to KASA by the school principal with a cover sheet or brief note endorsing the contest entry. (School Entry Form Follows)
9. School's final contest entry must be received at the KASA office no later than April 16, 2008. Faxes and emails cannot be accepted. Please allow five business days for mailing.
10. Entries will be scored holistically based on Kentucky's Writing Scoring Guide.
11. Contest winners will be announced in early May prior to year-end school celebrations.

**Note: Entries not submitted in accordance with the above guidelines will be disqualified.**

**Entries must be received at the KASA office by April 16, 2008.**

### Recognition

First, second and third place winners will be recognized from each of the four grade level categories—K-2; 3-5; 6-8; 9-12.

- A. First place winners will be recognized as follows:
  - Invited (along with special school person) to read their winning entry at KASA's annual conference, July 16-18, 2008;
  - Presented a \$100 gift card;
  - Overnight accommodations at the Galt House Hotel, mileage reimbursement in accordance with KASA's approved rate for travel to and from the conference. Overnight accommodations require parental attendance. *\*Note: Mileage reimbursement applies to winning student's parent driver.*
- B. Second and third place winners will receive a certificate of excellence, a gift card, and be recognized at their school's year-end recognition ceremony.
- C. Special school persons (first place entries) attending the conference with their student will be recognized, receive a gift card, and overnight lodging at the Galt House.

**Questions? Contact Shannon Treece, Owen County High School  
([shannon.treece@owen.kyschools.us](mailto:shannon.treece@owen.kyschools.us))  
or Rhonda Caldwell, KASA ([rhonda@kasa.org](mailto:rhonda@kasa.org))**



*School Entry/Cover Sheet for*

# THE EXTRA DEGREE

## Student Writing Contest for Grades K-12

Student's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Grade Level: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Principal's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Office Phone \_\_\_\_\_

District Name \_\_\_\_\_

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Principal's Signature

Date

Attach entry to this cover sheet and mail to the KASA office by April 16, 2008:

Student Writing Contest  
Kentucky Association of School Administrators  
152 Consumer Lane  
Frankfort, KY 40601

Note: In accordance with contest guidelines, only one entry per school will be accepted.