# OSPI's Student Stories Program: Q&A

## What is the Student Stories program?

OSPI values authentic storytelling that centers the student experience, and affirms students as experts on their own lives. To amplify the voices of public school students statewide, OSPI's Communication and Digital Media team is launching the Student Stories program. This program will invite a cohort of 5-6 high school students to write stories, 300-800 words long, that will be published on OSPI platforms including the OSPI Blog, OSPI webpages, and/or OSPI's social media channels. **Students will be paid $50 for each story they contribute.**

## What kinds of things can students write?

Students are invited to write truthful stories about their own lived experiences within Washington's public schools. These stories can be analytical, journalistic, or creative, but must be nonfiction. Students' stories must relate to their experience at their public school and may not identify their classmates; contradict OSPI's values; or attack, threaten, or discriminate against any member of the school community.

## How many stories will students be expected to write?

Students will participate in the Student Stories program for one year, from August 1, 2023, through July 31, 2024. They will be expected to write 4 stories over the course of that year: 2 stories in the first six months, and 2 stories in the last six months. Deadlines will be in place to ensure there's enough time for OSPI staff to review and workshop stories with students before publication.

## Who is eligible to participate in the Student Stories program?

To participate, students must be currently enrolled in one of Washington's public schools or state-tribal education compact schools, and must be in grades 9, 10, 11, or 12.

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There are no other eligibility requirements for Student Stories participants. OSPI values diversity, equity, and inclusion, and seeks to amplify the voices of students from a variety of backgrounds and identities.

## How do students apply for the program?

Students can find the [online application at this link](#). The application asks for basic information, answers to five short essay questions, and at least one writing sample.

**The deadline to apply is Friday, June 16, 2023.** Students will be notified by Friday, July 14, 2023, if they have been accepted to the program.

## Who can I contact with additional questions?

Questions can be addressed to Chelsea Embree, Director of Publications and Engagement Strategy at OSPI. Her email is chelsea.embree@k12.wa.us.