

Name \_\_\_\_\_

# Plan Your Contest Entry

You're passionate about a local issue or cause and are inspired to take action! Imagine you're running for mayor, city council, or state legislature so you can effect change. Now, in a 2- to 3-page persuasive essay, tell us about it!

Use the prompts below to plan your essay on this sheet. Refer to the judging criteria.

## 1. DESCRIBE YOUR CAUSE

What local issue or cause inspired you to take action and run for office?

## 2. EXPLAIN THE IMPACT

Why is this local issue important to you and your community? Tip: Statistics can strengthen your argument.

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**3. RUN FOR OFFICE** Which local elected office are you running for to help address this issue?

Mayor      City Council      State Legislature

## 4. EXPLAIN THE CONNECTION

Why is this office a good choice for your issue?

**5. SET A GOAL** Once you win, what is a realistic program or policy you want to implement that will help address your issue? ("Realistic" means you may not solve the issue all at once, but you can make progress.)

**6. MAKE A PERSUASIVE PLAN** Interacting both with other elected officials and the voters you represent, how will you convince people to support your goal?

**PS: Don't forget to organize your essay clearly, with an introduction that catches your reader's attention and a conclusion that convinces them your argument is solid!**