



DO YOU HAVE WHAT IT TAKES TO INVESTIGATE GOVERNMENT REVENUE AND SPENDING?

The West Virginia State Auditor's Office is looking for ambitious, curious, and engaged students who like the idea of investigating state government revenue and spending, and an opportunity to explore the ways we are currently holding state, local, and county governments accountable to their citizens.

Do you have what we're looking for?

If you do, and you think transparency on all levels of state government is important, then we invite you to submit an essay outlining why you believe in governmental transparency, and how you would hold government entities who spend taxpayer dollars accountable to those taxpayers if you were elected to public office.

We will select ten essays as finalists. If your essay is one of these, we'll invite you to the State Capitol in Charleston to participate in a "State Budget Scavenger Hunt." You'll search through actual State financial records and compete for prizes, certificates, and more! Afterwards, all ten finalists will have lunch with the State Auditor and our transparency website, wvCheckbook.gov, staff.

If you're interested, and we hope you are, please submit your 500-word essay and cover page. This should include your name, where you attend school, phone number for a parent or guardian, and a signed media release/permission slip to BudgetAnalysis@wvsao.gov by Wednesday, March 11 at 5:00 PM.

Please call (304)-558-2251 if you have questions. We look forward to hearing from you!

Essay Format

Teachers – please provide students with this document to gain a better understanding of the format for the essay in addition to the contest flyer. Make copies if necessary!

- 500 word double-spaced essay using whatever font the student wants
- Document should be no larger than FOUR pages including cover page
- Cover Page should include First and Last Name, what High School you attend, as well as your parent or guardians Phone Number
- Submit essays to budgetanalysis@wvsao.gov to win prizes, meet the Auditor with other elected officials, and participate in the scavenger hunt! (Lunch to be provided by WVSAO)

Prompt

What is Transparency and how does it apply to Government? In your essay, define what transparency means to you and how transparency in Government can lead to better financial decision making. If you were an elected official how would you make government accountable to the people? Discuss in your essay how Government could be more efficient and more transparent in our current political climate, as well as steps you would take to reach those transparent objectives.

Note

Please complete the permission slip to attend the capitol and be recognized on the State Auditor's website upon selection of your essay!



State Auditor's Office Media Release Form

I, _____, hereby certify that I am the legal guardian of _____ and hereby give permission for images of my child captured during their visit to the West Virginia State Auditor's Office and such image may be used for the sole purpose of promotional material and publications, including its website, or any other like media purpose.

Name of Student Participant: _____

Parent/Legal Guardian Name (print): _____

Parent/Legal Guardian Signature: _____

Date: _____