



The 2024 Will McDonough Writing Contest Guidelines

Students can create a fiction or non-fiction essay on sports or choose from one of the following topics:

1. Great Moments in Sports

Write a narrative essay (fiction or non-fiction) about watching or playing in a great Boston sports moment.

2. Game Changers

Write an essay on who you think is the most influential person in sports. This can be a person who changed athletics, the community, or culture. Provide evidence to support your opinion.

3. Sports Rivals

New England has been the home to many great sports rivalries – Red Sox/Yankees, Harvard/Yale, and Celtics/Lakers, just to name a few. Write an essay about what you think is the greatest New England Sports rivalry. Include evidence to support your opinion.

4. Looking Back

2024 marks the 20th anniversary of The Will McDonough Writing Contest. Mr. McDonough was a long-time columnist for the *Boston Globe*. Write an essay on how sports coverage has changed in the last 20 years.

Judging Criteria

Entries will be judged on how well they express and support ideas, opinions, and claims. Essays will also be judged on creativity, writing style, and how well they hold the readers' attention. Students may use primary and secondary sources in their essay. Please include a bibliography and documentation if needed.

Maximum Length of Essays

Grades 4-5	400 Words	Grades 9-10	600 Words
Grades 6-8	500 Words	Grades 11-12	700 Words

NOTE: Bibliographies and essay titles do not count toward word totals.

All entries must be submitted online or postmarked on or before March 6, 2024.

Winning essays will be featured in the Will McDonough Exhibit in The Sports Museum, located within the TD Garden. First-place winners will receive a Kindle and be invited to participate in an award ceremony with Boston Globe writers and editors, members of the McDonough family and other special guests.

Winners will be announced via The Sports Museum's website (www.sportsmuseum.org) on March 18th.

The 2024 Will McDonough

Writing Contest

Presented by



Entry Form

Each participant must attach this form to his/her essay. Entries with incomplete forms will not be accepted.

- Entries must be submitted online (www.sportsmuseum.org) or mailed by **March 6, 2024**.
- The decisions of the judges are final.
- Essays become the property of The Sports Museum.

Student Name: _____ Grade: _____

Title of Essay: _____

School Name: _____

Teacher Name: _____

School Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

School Phone: _____

Parent/Caregiver Name: _____

Phone: _____ E-Mail Address: _____

Parent/Caregiver Release

I/We understand that The Sports Museum may use the essay, in its original or adapted form, for publicity or commercially distributed publications for no additional compensation and may use the entrant's name and/or likeness. We hereby grant such uses.

Parent or Caregiver

Student Signature

Date

Date

Please submit entries to the following address:

Caroline Flynn
Will McDonough Writing Contest
The Sports Museum/TD Garden
100 Legends Way
Boston, MA 02114

