# Essay Competition – Grades K-2

## Competition Description:

The Essay Competition for students in Grades K-2nd is an illustration competition that allows MISSION: STEM coordinators to reinforce STEM skills through illustrations. Students will choose a **topic** and create an **illustration**. They must also provide a **1 to 2-sentence caption** and record a **video** to explain their illustration. Final submission must also include a **cover page**.

### Non-Fiction Topics:

1. Write about a real-life superhero who works in science, technology, engineering, or math (STEM). Why do you admire this person? What do they do and why is their job important? Remember, not all superheroes wear capes!

### Science-Fiction Topics:

1. Imagine if everyone in the world had a superpower. What would the world look like? What would going to school or work be like?

2. Write your own superhero origin story beginning with a science experiment that goes wrong. This could be for your favorite superhero or for a brand-new superhero you made up.

### Suggested Process Map:

1. Choose a topic from either the non-fiction or science-fiction list.
2. Create a hand-drawn illustration on paper based on your chosen topic.
3. Write a one- to two-sentence caption describing the illustration.
4. Ask your MISSION: STEM coordinator, ELA teacher, and/or parent/guardian for feedback.
5. Revise based on the feedback, and if necessary, repeat, by going back to step 3 with changes.
6. Finalize illustration and caption description.
7. Collaborate with your MISSION: STEM coordinator, ELA teacher, and/or parent/guardian to help you record a video explaining your illustration.
8. Submit your cover page, finalized illustration, caption description, and video explanation. The cover page, illustration, and caption description should be in one combined PDF file. The video should be in mp4 format.

# Essay Competition – Judge's Evaluation Form – Grades K-2

Please select your grade: ☐ K ☐ 1st ☐ 2nd
Please select your category: ☐ Non-Fiction ☐ Science-Fiction
Please select your topic: ☐ Real-life Superhero ☐ Everyone has a Superpower ☐ Superhero Origin Story

| | |
|---|---|
| **Student Name** | |
| **Title of Illustration** | |
| **School/Organization Name** | |
| **School District** | |
| **Judge Name** | |

**EVALUATION CATEGORIES** **POINTS**

**Organization:**

- Paper Requirement for Illustration – 8.5" x 11" paper, positioned either in portrait or landscape _____/5
- Cover Page includes the following: _____/5
  - Student's Name and Grade
  - Selected Category
  - Selected Topic
  - Official School/Organization Name
  - Official School District Name
  - Coordinator's Name and Email

**Content:**

- Original and hand-drawn illustration: _____/30
  - Does the illustration relate to the chosen topic or theme?
  - Does the illustration show creativity and imagination?
  - Is the artwork original and not copied from other sources?
  - Did the student use materials such as magazine clippings, newspaper clippings, crayons, markers, colored pencils, colored pens, or paint?
- Caption Description of the Illustration: _____/30
  - Is the connection between the topic and the illustration clear?
  - Is the caption no longer than one to two sentences?

**Video Explanation:**

- Video Explanation of the Illustration: _____/30
  - Is the student's video within the four-minute (max) limit?
  - Can the student explain their thinking about why they picked this image to draw?
  - Can the student explain their thinking about how their image relates to the topic they picked?
  - Can the student explain why their drawing is unique or creative?

**TOTAL** (maximum 100 pts) **____/100**

**Judge's Comments:**