



Pennsylvania NewsMedia Association 2017 It Can Wait Official Rules

1. **General:** These rules govern the Pennsylvania NewsMedia Association's (PNA's) It Can Wait Contest ("Contest"). No purchase is necessary (or possible) to enter. A purchase does not increase the odds of winning. The act of entering constitutes acceptance of the rules and the decisions of the Pennsylvania NewsMedia Association, located at 3899 North Front Street, Harrisburg, PA 17110, and contacted at foundation@pa-news.org or (717) 703-3000.
2. **Eligibility:** The Contest is open to ninth through twelfth grade high school students in Pennsylvania who are 13 and older, except for employees, immediate family members or anyone living in the same residence as any employee of the Pennsylvania NewsMedia Association, Mid-Atlantic Newspaper Services, Inc., or the Pennsylvania NewsMedia Association Foundation.
3. **Contest:** The Contest begins on October 3, 2016, and ends at 12 midnight on February 10, 2017.
4. **Article/Editorial Topic**
 - The topic for the Article/Editorial is "Why is it important to take the It Can Wait pledge to keep your eyes on the road, not your phone?"
 - Articles/Editorials will be judged on the following criteria:
 - i. Creativity & originality
 - ii. Persuasiveness
 - iii. Grammar & spelling
 - iv. Understanding of subject matter
 - v. Relevancy of response to topic question
 - Entries must be 500 words or less.
 - Applicants may opt to cite external references in their entries, such as statistics or quotes. All external references must be properly cited as parenthetical citations, footnotes, or endnotes. Citations will not be counted toward the word maximum.
 - All entries must be the original work of the applicant. Entries must not have been entered in another competition nor published previously in any form or sold for publication. Entries must not contain material that infringes on the intellectual property rights of others. Any entry that violates these rules will be disqualified and any awards made for such entry will be rescinded and must be returned.

5. **Prize:** A \$500 prize will be awarded to the statewide winner. The winning statewide essay will be determined by a judging committee selected by the PNA, in its sole discretion. Applicants may submit their entries directly to the PNA, or as part of a newspaper contest, but they may submit only one entry. Participating newspapers will submit their winning entries to the PNA by February 10, 2017.
6. **How to Enter**
 - An applicant submitting entries directly to the PNA must submit his or her article/editorial to the PNA by mail, at the address listed above, fax ((717) 703-3008) or via the Association website (www.panewsmedia.org), no later than February 10, 2017. Essays received after 11:59 p.m. on February 10, 2017, will not qualify and will not be considered. Entries submitted electronically to PNA must be submitted as a .doc (Microsoft Word 2003), .docx (Microsoft Word 2007/2010/2013), .odt (OpenOffice.org), .txt (plain text) file or a PDF (Portable Document Format). Entries submitted in an alternate file format and entries that contain corrupted data which cannot be opened will not qualify and will not be considered. The file must be under 1.0 MB in size. Entries submitted with an incomplete or non-conforming application form or format or by an applicant who does not meet the qualifications of the competition will not qualify and will not be considered for any award.
 - An applicant submitting entries to a participating news media company must follow the rules set forth by that company.
7. **Conditions for Participation**
 - All submitted entries become the exclusive intellectual property of the participating newspapers and PNA, and the newspapers and PNA obtain all rights to use and republish all or any part of such entry upon submission.
 - PNA and its members may use prizewinners' names, likeness, and other identifying information (such as hometown, school, or grade) in promotional materials relating to this competition.
 - Winners (or their parents or guardians) will be required to sign an affidavit of eligibility, originality, and compliance with the official rules, a liability release, and a publicity release as a condition to receiving their prize.
 - All taxes shall be the responsibility of the winners of the competition.
 - By submitting an application and/or entry to PNA or participating newspaper, the applicant agrees to all of the terms and conditions set forth in these Official Rules and on the PNA website.
8. **Miscellaneous**
 - No entry will be given preference over any other essay on the basis of an applicant's name, school, grade, gender, race, ethnicity, geographic origin, or any legally protected status.
 - Applicant acknowledges that PNA, the PNA Foundation, and PNA members shall have no liability of any kind as a result of any errors or omissions in the administration of this competition, or any network or website errors or incompatibilities, and by entering this competition

applicant releases any and all claims applicant may have against PNA, the PNA Foundation, or PNA members in this regard.

- No entries will be returned to applicants.
- No notice will be given to applicants with non-winning or non-conforming entries or applications.
- All decisions are final. The Contest is governed by the laws of Pennsylvania. The PNA reserves the right to cancel or modify the Contest or the Contest rules at any time without notice. The prize must be accepted as awarded and is non-transferable. The PNA reserves the right to substitute any prize or portion of the prize with a prize of equal or greater value. The prize is awarded as-is and no warranties or guarantees are implied or expressed. The odds of winning depend upon how many eligible entries are received, the quality of the entries, and the discretion of the judges.

For more information or if you have any questions, please contact foundation@pa-news.org or phone (717) 703-3000.