



20TH ANNUAL ESSAY & ART CONTEST

8TH GRADE

Unleash your ideas! Imagine, create and invent a new product and make your mark on the world. Entries about your BIG IDEA can be in the form of original artwork or an original essay. The Essay/Art Contest is open to 3rd - 8th grade students who attend the Arlington ISD.

#1: LEARNING FROM FAILURE AND TRYING AGAIN

Entrepreneurs know that failure isn't the end—it's a chance to learn. Think about a time you tried something that didn't work the first time, like losing a game, struggling with an assignment, or messing up a project.

Write or create a poster about how you could learn from mistakes and try again in a smarter way. How would this help you improve faster and keep growing?

Bonus Challenge: Show how your invention could save time, money, or energy (just like a real entrepreneur would think about).

#2: DARE TO DREAM BIGGER? INVENT SOMETHING NEW!

Entrepreneurs don't just improve things - sometimes they invent brand-new ideas. Imagine you could invent anything to make life easier, more fun, or better for people. It could be a gadget, an app, a game, a new kind of sport, or even a robot helper.

Write about or design a poster of your invention. Answer these questions in your own way: What is your invention called? What problem does it solve? How would people use it in their everyday lives? Why is it better than what already exists?

ENTRIES DUE: WED, NOVEMBER 5, 2025

Two Ways to Enter:

- (1) Submit online at arlingtontx.com/bigidea.
- (2) Submit your typed or neatly handwritten essay or poster on a separate sheet.

MUST HAVES

COMPLETED ENTRY FORM WITH PARENT SIGNATURE AS PAGE 1 (SEE BACK)

ONLY 8.5x11 SIZE PAPER

NO MORE THAN 400 WORDS

ANY OTHER FORMAT WILL BE DISQUALIFIED.

WIN PRIZES FOR YOUR BIG IDEAS!

Awards Ceremony: Wed, Feb 4, 2026
4:30-6:30 • UTA College Park

Finalists: Judges select the best ideas. All finalists receive a medal on stage at the ceremony.

Prizes: 1st, 2nd and 3rd place for each grade and category receive a trophy, tshirt and great prize package with donations from Arlington businesses. ANNOUNCED AT THE CEREMONY

Grand Prize: First place winners receive a scholarship to attend a one-week summer camp "The Big Idea Lab" where they learn what it means to be an entrepreneur.

USE THE PROBLEM-SOLVING MODEL

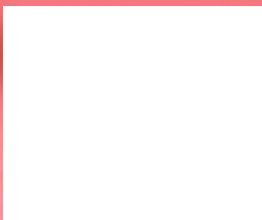
1

UNDERSTAND AND ANALYZE THE PROBLEM



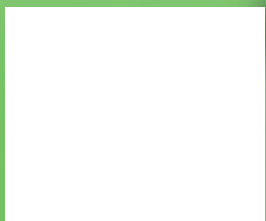
2

FORMULATE A PLAN OR STRATEGY



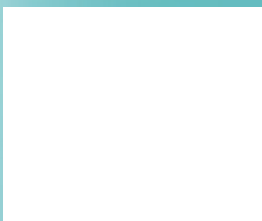
4

DETERMINE A SOLUTION



3

JUSTIFY AND EVALUATE THE SOLUTION



Questions: please contact cte@aisd.net

WHAT TO INCLUDE IN YOUR ENTRY:

What do you sell? Is it a product or a service?

Who are your customers? Adults or kids? Someone with a specific need? Is it for families or for one person?

Why is your idea special? How is your product different from others that already exist?

How do you plan to tell people about your product or service? How will you connect with your customers?

How will you manage your business? An online store, a shop that people can visit in person, or both?

Specific to art entries:

Headline: A brief phrase that gets the readers' attention

Copy: The words in the ad that explain your big idea

Graphic: A photograph or drawing explaining your idea

Logo: Design a distinctive symbol for a business such as Nike's swoosh or McDonald's golden arches.

Submit Online and View the Comprehensive Contest Guide at arlingtontx.com/bigidea



CONTEST GUIDE UNDERWRITER



College of Business

College of Engineering

ENTRY FORM

ALL PHYSICAL SUBMISSIONS MUST
HAVE THIS FORM STAPLED AS PAGE 1
OF THE CONTEST ENTRY.



Student's First
& Last Name: _____

PLEASE PRINT NEATLY

Student ID #: _____
LUNCH CODE

Grade: _____

Tshirt

Size: _____

Media Consent & Release for Minor Children (Must be signed by parent/guardian for students under 18 years of age). Your student's name, photograph, video footage and/or work may be used for the "What's Your Big Idea?" Entrepreneurship Contest purposes including but not limited to Programs, Video Presentations and Websites.

A tshirt is NOT guaranteed with entry. Top winners receive a tshirt. Finalists have the option to purchase at the ceremony.

Parent/Guardian's

First & Last Name: _____

PLEASE PRINT NEATLY

Parent/Guardian's

Signature: _____

SIGNATURE REQUIRED

Phone

Number: _____

INCLUDE AREA CODE

School

Name: _____

PLEASE PRINT NEATLY

Teacher's

First & Last

Name: _____

PLEASE PRINT NEATLY

Contest Category: SELECT ONE

☐☐

Contest Language: SELECT ONE

ENGLISH

☐

SPANISH

☐

If you are entering both categories,
you must submit two separate, complete entries.

Questions: please contact cte@aisd.net

Submit Online and View the
Comprehensive Contest Guide at
arlingtontx.com/bigidea



CONTEST RULES

ENTRIES DUE: NOVEMBER 5, 2025

All entries should be submitted no later than Wednesday, November 5, 2025, either by delivering them directly to or through interoffice mail to the AISD Admin. Building ATTN: CTE (690 E. Larma Blvd., Arlington, TX 76011) or electronically.

Each entry must reflect the theme for the appropriate grade level. Students may enter in one or both categories, but must provide a separate entry form for each entry.

All essay entries must be less than 400 words, typed (preferred) or handwritten neatly on 8.5 x 11 paper.

All art entries must be original drawings and/or computer graphics. Art may not be 3D and must be on 8.5 x 11 paper—no legal sized paper or poster boards allowed. **Larger Entries will be disqualified.** (organizational and judging purposes)

Each entry must have the entry form stapled as page one of the student's submission including the student name, school, grade,

student ID#, category (essay or art), teacher who is providing contest direction and parent/guardian's name, signature and phone number. No identifying information should be included in the body of the essay or be visible on the artwork as these items may be used during the ceremony presentation.

Essays will be judged by the Greater Arlington Chamber and the Chamber's Partners in Education Advisory Council on the basis of grade-appropriate focus and coherence, organization, development of ideas, voice and conventions (grammar, spelling and punctuation).

Art will be judged on basic principles of art and advertisement effectiveness.