

# 2026 RULES AND PRIZES

## This year's theme is Press Play on Prevention!

Use your writing skills to demonstrate how you can turn up the volume among your friends, family, or people in your community by living tobacco- and nicotine-free and encouraging them to do the same!

### PROJECT GUIDELINES

Open to Arkansas students in **grades 4-6**. Prizes will be awarded to **first, second and third-place winners** for each grade. The essays should focus on the supplied theme topic. All essays must be written by the students. Essays should be **no more than 500 words for grades 4-5** and **no more than 750 words for grade 6**. Entries that are graphic or violent in nature will not be eligible.

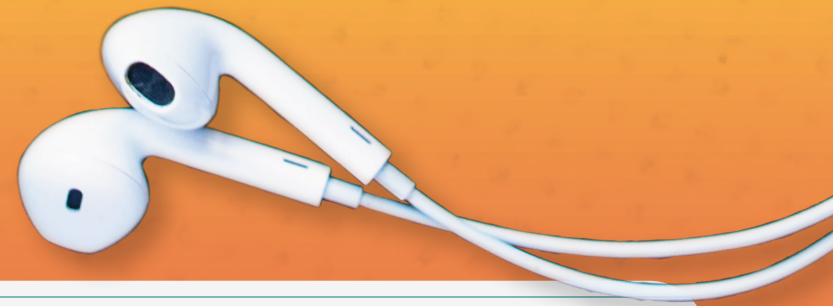
### SELECTION CRITERIA

A third party will judge all artwork and the winners will be announced in **May 2026**. Judging will be based on the following criteria:

**Creativity**  
**Effectiveness/Accuracy of Message**  
**Ethics/Good Taste**  
**Quality of Writing**

### PRIZES

Winners will be announced on the Project Prevent website and on social media in **May 2026**. The teacher or guardians of the winning students will be contacted as well, and the Project Prevent staff will make arrangements to **deliver the prizes**. Students in each grade will be awarded a certificate and a **prize for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place winners**.



### HOW TO ENTER

#### Mail Entries:

Arkansas Department of Health  
Attn: Project Prevent  
4815 West Markham St, Slot 3  
Little Rock, AR 72205

#### Scan and Email Entries:

Leosha Williams at  
[leosha.williams@arkansas.gov](mailto:leosha.williams@arkansas.gov)

#### Fax Entries:

888-827-7057

#### ENTRIES MUST INCLUDE

**STUDENT'S NAME,**

**GRADE, SCHOOL & TEACHER**

**SUBMISSIONS ACCEPTED**

**FEB. 23, 2026**

THROUGH

**APR. 17, 2026**



#PlayItSafe #SkiptheRisk