

RESPONSE QUESTIONS

Respond to the following questions, highlighting your personal story, and why you believe you should be the 2025 West Virginia Teacher of the Year. Please indicate evidence of student impact. Please do not include external links. Maximum word count for each response is 750 words. Each question refers back to the aligned criteria below.

Criteria

A candidate for West Virginia Teacher of the Year is a teacher in a state-approved or accredited school; PreKindergarten through grade twelve, who is planning to continue in an active teaching status. The West Virginia Teacher of the Year candidate has the respect and admiration of their colleagues and:

- » Is an expert in their field who advances growth for students of all backgrounds and abilities;
- » Builds collaborative relationships with colleagues, students, and families to create a school culture of equity and success;
- » Deliberately connects the classroom to community to impact student growth and learning;
- » As a lifelong learner and teacher leader, they utilize innovation to create learning experiences within and beyond the classroom;
- » Expresses themselves in an engaging and clear way, conveying the lived classroom experience to a variety of audiences.

1. Describe a content lesson or unit that defines you as a teacher. How did you engage students of all backgrounds and abilities in the learning? Show how your deliberate instructional decisions create student learning and reveal your beliefs about teaching and learning. (maximum of 750 words)
2. Describe a project or initiative you have been involved in that deliberately creates culture in your classroom or school. Describe how you build and use relationships to collaborate and to teach students of all backgrounds, abilities and identities. What is the status of the project today? (maximum of 750 words)
3. Describe a time when you grew as a teacher leader and life-long learner as a result of being an advocate in your school, state or beyond. Describe your advocacy, how it helped you grow and how it impacted students. (maximum of 750 words)