



BEGINNINGS XXVIII

Celebrating Ohio Aspire Authors

Your student could become a published author and help Ohio celebrate the United States of America's semiquincentennial in 2026!

For over two decades, Aspire teachers have encouraged students to submit their original writing for possible publication in *Beginnings*. This student anthology is a collection of short stories, streams of consciousness, informative text, poetry, persuasive essays, and lyrics. In celebration of America's semiquincentennial, the Ohio Literacy Resource Center invites students to submit writing in any genre that reflects the following categories: *Ohio Creates*, *Ohio Learns*, *Ohio Works*, *Ohio Explores*, and *Ohio Serves*.

Practicing good writing with your students not only helps them improve their English language skills and prepares them for the high school equivalency, but it builds their confidence as communicators. Aspire students can submit work that has been turned in for a class assignment, a piece that has been tucked away in a journal, or something that has been created specifically for *Beginnings*. Instructors can upload students' writing by logging in to the Professional Development System at www.ohioaspire.org.

The deadline for submissions is March 5, 2026. Entries are evaluated in a blind review process and are judged on the following criteria: content, organization/structure, creativity, and mechanics. Original art can also be submitted for inclusion in the publication. Student artwork will be judged on originality and how the piece best captures the "spirit" of *Beginnings*. Artwork must be accompanied by a completed artist form and mailed to the Ohio Literacy Resource Center by the March 5, 2026, deadline.

More information about the publication, including submission instructions, can be found at <http://literacy.kent.edu/beginnings>. To learn about how Ohio is celebrating the 250th anniversary of the United States of America, visit, <http://america250-ohio.org/>.



Aspire

Learn more. Earn more.

Ohio Literacy Resource Center – *Beginnings*

800 E. Summit St., 236 Schwartz Center • Kent State University • Kent Ohio 44242

Phone: 800-765-2897 • writers@literacy.kent.edu • <http://literacy.kent.edu/beginnings>