



## 2023 Oregon Teacher of the Year Biography and Essay Questions

The written portion of the application will require you to respond to the following questions, highlighting your personal story and why you believe you should be the 2023 Oregon Teacher of the Year. Your application will be reviewed based on the criteria included with each question.

1. Professional Biography: Please complete your professional biography in third person, as this will be used in promotional materials for speaking opportunities and engagements. *(Maximum 250 words)*
2. 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? How did that learning influence your students? How are your beliefs about teaching demonstrated in this lesson or unit? *(Maximum 750 words)*
  - *Criteria: Teacher is an expert in their field who guides students of all backgrounds and abilities to achieve excellence.*
3. Describe a project or initiative you helped create which contributed to the improvement of overall school culture. What was your role, and what is the status of this project today? Please include evidence of student impact. *(Maximum 750 words)*
  - *Criteria: Teacher collaborates with colleagues, students and families to create a school culture of respect and success.*
4. How do you ensure that education transcends the classroom? Describe specific ways in which you deliberately connect your students with the community. How did you collaborate with others (e.g. colleagues, students, families) in this work? Please include evidence of student impact. *(Maximum 750 words)*
  - *Criteria: Teacher deliberately connects the classroom and the community to foster a strong community at large.*
5. What do you consider to be a major public education issue today? Describe how you demonstrate being a lifelong learner, teacher, and innovator about this issue, both in and outside of the classroom walls. *(Maximum 750 words)*
  - *Criteria: Teacher demonstrates leadership and innovation in and outside of the classroom walls that embodies lifelong learning.*
6. Imagine you have just been named the Oregon Teacher of the Year for 2023, serving as a spokesperson and representative for Oregon teachers and students. Please provide a preview of what you would say to your students, fellow teachers, administrators and government representatives. *(Maximum 750 words)*
  - *Criteria: Teacher expresses themselves in an engaging and clear way.*