



ESSAY QUESTIONS

Congratulations!

You have been nominated to be the next Oregon Teacher of the Year!

The written portion of the application will require you to respond to the following questions, highlighting your expertise, professional collaboration skills, and ability to connect with the community.

Your application will be reviewed based on the criteria included with each of the following questions:

1. Describe a content lesson or unit that defines you as a teacher. How did you engage students of all backgrounds and abilities in learning? Show how your deliberate instructional decisions create student learning and reveal your beliefs about teaching and learning. *(maximum of 750 words)*
 - **Criteria:** Teacher demonstrates that they are an expert in their field who guides students of all backgrounds and abilities to achieve excellence.
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)*
 - **Criteria:** Teacher collaborates with colleagues, students and families to create a school culture of respect and success.
3. Describe specific ways in which you deliberately connect your students with the community. Show how these community connections dissolve classroom walls and are used to impact student learning and success. *(maximum of 750 words)*
 - **Criteria:** Teacher deliberately connects the classroom and the community to foster a strong community at large.