

Issue #27 - Why Go to School?

Call for Submissions

*To mark PLATO's 30th anniversary, a yearlong initiative will examine the purposes of education. As part of the initiative, we're asking **Why go to school?***

In an era shaped by COVID schooling, artificial intelligence, and increased school choice, we invite young philosophers to consider what schools are, whom they serve, and what education should look like.

Possible questions include:

- What is the purpose of school?
- What would a just and meaningful education look like?
- What should students learn, and who should decide?
- How should schools respond to technology and artificial intelligence?
- Does learning require struggle?
- How does school shape who you become?
- What makes someone smart or successful?
- What makes for a healthy school community?
- What makes a good teacher or student?
- What power dynamics exist within schools, and should they change?

We invite submissions from K-12 students and their teachers, in many forms including: visual art, short-form essays and poetry, multimedia projects, lesson plans, and open-form reflections.

Submission Information

SUBMISSION FORMATS

Philosophical Essays
Poetry & Prose Reflections

Visual Art
Multimedia projects

High School Research Section

Questions invites research length essays, between 1000 – 2000 words long, from high school students on topics related to the issue theme.

NEW! Ethics Cases

PLATO's Case Writing Project is now administered through *Questions*. Students are invited to submit ethics cases that focus on an ethical issue, current or perennial, relevant to middle and/or high school students, and that consider the ethical issue from at least two viewpoints. See the [*Questions* webpage](#) for more information.

NEW! Reviews of Children's and Young Adult Literature

Write a summary of a book that explores the topic of teaching, learning, and schooling and add a list of possible discussion questions. Check out [PLATO's Picture Book Library](#) for examples.

NEW! Teacher Reflections

If you are an educator leading philosophy discussions with young people, submit your reflections and insights for our new Teacher Reflections section of the journal.

Deadline: April 30, 2027

Submit here: <https://www.plato-philosophy.org/journal-questions/>

Submission Requirements

Bio: Please include contact information and a paragraph about yourself: your name, age, school, and the town/state/country in which you live.

File Format: Written submissions should be sent in Word or Rich Text File formats (.doc/.docx or .rtf).

Images: Send images, whether photographs, drawings, paintings, etc., as uncompressed JPEG files with at least a 300 dpi resolution.

Citations: Please cite and format scholarly articles according to the guidelines in the Chicago Manual of Style; use endnotes rather than footnotes.

Permissions: A copyright release and parental permission are needed for publication and will be collected at the time of submission.

Questions, the official journal of [Philosophy Learning and Teaching Organization](#) (PLATO) features short articles, discussions, drawings, critiques, poetry, and other writings by philosophy students of all ages.

The journal is published annually by the [Philosophy Documentation Center](#). It is our goal to engage children in advanced philosophical thinking through related and common works of art. As part of our anonymous review selection, we consider all submissions for correctness, accuracy, and quality of thought for the writer's age.