



Application Tips and Tricks

Congratulations on being selected as your District's Teacher of the Year. Now it is time to apply to be the Wyoming Teacher of the Year (WTOY). This document will help you with some ideas to submit a great application.

Tips and Tricks

1. The WTOY rubric is aligned with the selection criteria for WTOY. When answering the application questions, be thinking about how you can bring forward the criteria in each of your answers. The [rubric](#) takes a holistic approach and considers all of your application questions when looking at the candidate criteria. The current rubric can be found on the [WTOY webpage](#).

The candidate for WTOY 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 the community to impact student growth and learning.
- Demonstrates leadership and innovation in and outside of the classroom walls that embodies lifelong learning.
- Expresses themselves in an engaging and clear way, conveying the lived classroom experience to a variety of audiences.

2. The WTOY selection committee is made up of a variety of stakeholders including Wyoming Department of Education staff, previous WTOYs, Military members, business community members, etc. When answering the application questions try to avoid using jargon, as not all of the selection committee comes from an educational background.
3. Tell your story. This is your time to shine. Be descriptive in your answers and don't be afraid to come at the question from a different angle. The selection committee reads up to 48 applications. Make sure that you are answering the questions in a way that makes your answers stand out.
4. The application will be redacted before being given to the selection committee. Names, location, school, and district information will be removed. The subject area and grade level will be kept in order to provide context to the answers.
5. Don't miss the deadline. Due to tight turnaround times for the WTOY process, it is essential that you do not miss the deadline for the application.