Essay Prompt

Water is connected to us, regardless of where we live. Individuals who work in a farm field, have a backyard, or work in city infrastructure can make a difference to protect and improve water. Identify someone in your community or in Iowa who is implementing a water improvement practice, project, or carrying out a policy. How they are making a difference for Iowa’s natural resources?

These individuals may address the following: water quality, flooding, water education, or watershed management. Please include the following:

a) Select and describe a community member, elected official, government agency official, scientist, or farmer
b) Research and describe the practice/project/policy in place
c) Describe what motivates that individual to do the practice/project/policy
d) Describe how others can emulate his/her work

Essay length: 500-1000 words (approximately 4 pages double-spaced). All essays must be typed in 12 pt. font, double-spaced. Students must reference a minimum of three sources when researching the policy and/or practice in place. Please use in-text citations when using a reference. The reference list does not count towards the required essay length. The reference list must use MLA formatting.

Submission Deadline: February 5, 2018 by 5PM

Winners will be recognized during the awards luncheon on March 21st during the Iowa Water Conference.

All prize-winning essays will be published as an online anthology produced by the Iowa Water Center.

Prizes

1st Place
$500 cash prize
One full college course scholarship or 4 credit hours total at the Iowa Lakeside Laboratory ($1700 value)

2nd Place
$300 cash prize
2 credit hour course scholarship at the Iowa Lakeside Laboratory ($900 value)

3rd Place
$300 cash prize
About the prizes

The Iowa Lakeside Laboratory, located in West Okoboji Lake, is owned by the state of Iowa and operated through the Board of Regents. Its mission is: 1) to provide science classes and research opportunities for university students, and 2) to offer Outreach Programs and provide services through the state universities.

Scholarship winners may choose any summer academic course at the Lakeside Laboratory. For an example course offering list, please visit http://www.continuetolearn.uiowa.edu/lakesidelab/university/courses/index.html. In general, one semester hour is equivalent to one week of a residential course. Credits earned at the Lakeside Laboratory transfer to the Regent Universities within Iowa as well as other colleges. To transfer to other universities and colleges, students are encouraged to contact those respective institutions regarding credit transfer. The scholarship amount for credit hours is only available to the Iowa Lakeside Lab and the cash value will not transfer to other college and universities to take courses.

Students with prize-winning essays will receive cash prizes via personal check within 30 days of the awards ceremony on March 21, 2018. Students receiving scholarships to the Iowa Lakeside Lab will receive a certificate to submit to the Iowa Lakeside Laboratory when registering for courses. The certificate for coursework will expire four years after high school graduation, and students are encouraged to enroll in a course when they are academically prepared and can fit it in their schedule.

For more information, please contact Mary Skopec, Director of the Iowa Lakeside Laboratory, mary-skopec@uiowa.edu or 712-337-3669 ext 5.

Submission Guidelines

Students enrolled in grades 9-12 in public, private, and home schools in the State of Iowa are eligible to submit an essay. All essays must be typed in 12 pt. font, double-spaced. Other submission materials include an application form found on the Iowa Water Center webpage for the contest (http://www.water.iastate.edu/essaycontest). This form must be completed and sent with the essay to qualify for the contest.

The checklist for a qualifying submission for judging is the following:

- Essay
- Application form

Submissions must be submitted via email to Hanna Bates at hbates@iastate.edu. Recipients will receive confirmation upon submission.
Submissions will be evaluated by a three-person panel representing members from the Iowa water community. Essays will be evaluated on the following criteria:

1. Creativity/Originality
2. Focus/Main Point
3. Organization/Format
4. Language/Style
5. Grammar

Students and teachers are encouraged to reach out to Hanna Bates, hbates@iastate.edu or 515-294-5650, if they have any questions regarding the contest.

We recognize the positive impact of diversity and welcome applications from all students meeting eligibility guidelines. Persons with documented disabilities are encouraged to contact IWC staff to make timely requests for reasonable accommodations.