



Society of Plastics Engineers

2017 "Wonders of Plastics" Essay Contest

The Society of Plastics Engineers (SPE) presents the 17th annual "Wonders of Plastics" essay contest. Open to all middle/junior high and high school students, the essay must be sponsored by a teacher and must meet certain requirements (see *Requirements for Submission*, p 2).

Who may participate:

Any high school student from the Southern California Section of SPE is encouraged to participate. A particular call is made for industry members that may know a high school student that may want to participate (son/daughter, nephew, neighbor, etc.). The Southern California Section of SPE covers from San Luis Obispo in the north, to the border in the south to the border with Arizona in the East.

Topics to consider

The Southern California Section is requesting essays covering the realm of Green Plastics or how Plastics Benefit Society. Example topics include but are not limited to:

Renewable Plastics
Plastics Recycling
Medical Plastics

Plastics in Food Packaging
How Plastics Benefit Mankind
Advances in Plastics

Biodegradable Plastics
How Plastics Save Energy
Your Own Plastics Topic

All essay submissions must be received at the SPE Section address, listed below, along with the entry form, by the announced deadline.

In the past the awards have been \$500 for first place, \$250 for second place, and \$100 for third place. The students school receives a matching award as well.

Entry forms may be copied, but each essay must be attached to a form; essays will not be returned and become the property of SPE. Essays may be co-authored.

Submit your Essay or questions to SPE Southern California Section

Victor Okhuysen
3801 W. Temple Ave. Bldg 17-2635
Pomona, CA 91768
Tel: 909/869-2698
Email: vfokhuysen@cpp.edu

Entry must be postmarked by deadline of January 15, 2017!

REQUIREMENTS FOR SUBMISSION

General

- Length: Between 500 and 1,000 words. Place a word count at the end of the essay.
- Format: Typewritten in English on 8 ½ x 11 paper (for North America), title to appear as heading on each page; no name on any page except the entry form that must accompany each essay; 1-inch margins minimum on all sides; 12 pt Times New Roman or similar font.

Organization

The organization structure of the essay should be “logical,” including the following considerations:

- Introduction: Optional
- Thesis: Several sentences
- Development: This section should be several paragraphs and should discuss the theme, analyze it, feature informal research about the theme, etc.
- Conclusion: This section should be at least one paragraph in which the author summarizes the ideas presented in the essay

Mechanics

Spelling should be correct; syntax should be readable; punctuation should be conventional. Essay should be free of sentence fragments. Diction (word choice) should be appropriate to the subject and the writer’s understanding of the topic. Point of view should be appropriate to the topic/subject and remain constant and consistent. A mixture of first and third person is acceptable if it is appropriate to the voice of the essay. However, the use of second person (“you” either stated directly or implied) will change the “voice” of the essay in a manner damaging to its effectiveness. Footnotes and references must be included when necessary.

Judging

A panel consisting of SPE members, an editor, and a teacher will judge essays. In order to be a finalist, the essay must meet all the conditions as stated in the organization and mechanics above, with only incidental errors in mechanics. It must meet the assigned minimum length and must be submitted following the prescribed format.

ENTRY FORM

Title: _____

By: _____
type or print

about the author(s)

Name(s) _____ age _____
_____ age _____

Grade in School _____

Address(es) _____

Phone Number(s) _____

E-mail(s) _____

about the school

School _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone/Fax _____

Teacher _____

Class _____

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