



City of Dallas Water Conservation 2010 Essay Contest

City of Dallas Water Utilities Water Conservation Division invites Junior and Senior high school students living within the Dallas city limits to enter our new essay contest. There will be first, second and third place winners who will receive prizes and recognition by the Dallas City Council.

Prizes: 1st Place Prize: a notebook computer, a plaque and a participation certificate
2nd Place Prize: an iPod touch, a plaque and a participation certificate
3rd Place Prize: an iPod nano, a plaque and a participation certificate

Teacher/ team leader: Teacher/ team leader of the 1st Place winner: \$250 voucher for school/art supplies.
Teacher/ team leader of the 2nd place winner: \$150 voucher for school/art supplies.
Teacher/ team leader of the 3rd place winner: \$100 voucher for school/art supplies

Topic: *“You can’t go green without going blue”- What are the environmental advantages to saving water?*

Judging:

A panel of representatives from the business, environmental, government, and academic communities will select the winners of the contest in a two-step process:

- 1) The selection of the top five essay finalists, and
- 2) A personal interview to determine 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place winners.

Submitting Essays:

Your entry must be postmarked by Monday, March 1st 2010 by 5:00 p.m. Essay is to be submitted by mail or drop-off only. **(Emails will not be accepted).** Mail or drop essay and materials to:

***Derinda Stewart
City of Dallas Water Conservation Division
1500 Marilla Room 5AS
Dallas, Texas 75201
Attn: Essay Contest***

For additional information or questions, contact Derinda Stewart at 214-243-1174 or email derinda.stewart@dallascityhall.com.

2010 Dallas Water Conservation Essay Contest Rules & Guidelines

Section I - How to Enter:

Please send a hard copy of your essay, a CD with a digital version of your essay and a completed application form to Derinda Stewart, Essay Contest, City of Dallas Water Conservation Division, 1500 Marilla, Room 5AS, Dallas Texas 75201. Entry must be postmarked or received by 5:00 p.m. March 1, 2010.

Section II - Essay Format:

- Format essay on 8 ½ x 11 paper (margins set 1" 12- point font, single spaced).
- Use Times New Roman (Do not use fancy or script fonts)
- Number each page on the bottom right corner
- On the top left side of the 1st page include:
 - a.) writer's name, home address, cell phone or home phone
 - b.) writer's email address
 - c.) grade (as of January 2010) and school name

If more than one page is used, each page must be numbered. All references must be clearly marked and can appear as parenthetical citations, endnotes or footnotes. Materials used for research that are not cited in the student's essay should be listed in a works cited/bibliography page at the end. The hard copy of essay must be stapled together in the upper left-hand corner.

Section III - Contest Rules

1. Participants must write on the official topic. ***"You can't go green without going blue" - What are the environmental advantages to saving water?***
2. Entries must include a City of Dallas Water Conservation Division Essay Contest Entry Form.
3. All entrants must reside within the city limits of Dallas.
4. With the exception of cited material, essays must be solely the work of the student entering the contest.
5. Essays should not exceed 1,000 words. Every word is counted with the exception of the title, bibliography or footnotes.
6. Any quotations or copyrighted material used in the essay must be identified properly. Failure to identify non-original material will result in disqualification.
7. Essays must be written in English.
8. The final five candidates must agree to appear before the panel to discuss their essay.
9. Each contestant must abide by all afore mentioned rules or will be disqualified.

Section IV- Scoring (Total 100 points)

- 1) Content/Originality: Does the entry present a fresh idea or present the topic in a new way, and/or use diverse resource material to present its idea? Is the entry interesting? **40 point maximum**
- 2) Organization: Are the ideas in the entry clearly articulated? Does the entry follow a logical and easily understood progression? Does it support the conclusions it draws? **25 point maximum**
- 3) Use of research/resource material: Does the entry utilize resource material accurately and effectively? Is resource material appropriately cited within the entry? **15 point maximum**
- 4) Writing: Are spelling, grammar and punctuation reasonably correct? Is vocabulary used appropriately? **15 point maximum**
- 5) Adherence to contest rules (prepared in the proper format): **5 points**

Section V- Selection:

Writers of the selected top five essays will be required to participate in an interview with a panel of judges the second or third week of April 2010. First, second and third place winners will be selected by the judge panel by April 30, 2010. The winners will be announced in April and an awards ceremony will be held May, 2010 in recognition of Drinking Water Week at Dallas City Hall. A complete list of the finalists will be available on SaveDallasWater.com by May, 2010.

Tips for How to Write an Essay

These simple steps will guide you through the essay writing process:

- Decide on your topic.
- Prepare an outline or diagram of your ideas.
- Write your thesis statement.
- Write the body.
 - Write the main points.
 - Write the sub points.
 - Elaborate on the sub points.
- Write the introduction.
- Write the conclusion.
- Add the finishing touches.

Here's How:

1. Select the topic of your essay.
2. Choose the central idea, or thesis, of your essay. For example: *Information technology has revolutionized the way we work.*
3. Outline your essay into introductory, body and summary paragraphs.
4. The introductory paragraph begins with an interesting sentence. For example: *Home workers have grown from 150,000 to over 12 million in the past 5 years thanks to the wonders of the computer.*
5. After this first sentence, add your thesis statement from above.
6. Use one sentence to introduce every body paragraph to follow. For example: *The Internet has made this possible by extending the office into the home.*
7. Finish the introductory paragraph with a short summary or goal statement. For example: *Technological innovation has thus made the traditional workplace obsolete.*
8. In each of the body paragraphs (usually two or three) the ideas first presented in the introductory paragraph are developed.
9. Develop your body paragraphs by giving detailed information and examples. For example: *When the Internet was first introduced it was used primarily by scientists, now it is common in every classroom.*
10. Body paragraphs should develop the central idea and finish with a summary of that idea. There should be at least two examples or facts in each body paragraph to support the central idea.
11. The summary paragraph summarizes your essay and is often a reverse of the introductory paragraph.
12. Begin the summary paragraph by quickly restating the principal ideas of your body paragraphs. For example: *The Internet in the home, benefits and ease of use of modern computer systems...*
13. The penultimate sentence should restate your basic thesis of the essay. For example: *We have now passed from the industrial revolution to the information revolution.*
14. Your final statement can be a future prediction based on what you have shown in the essay. For example: *The next step: The complete disappearance of the workplace.*
15. Sample bibliography formats: **Works Cited**

Adams, Eric. The Last Bastion: Fall of Hong Kong. London: Oxford University Press, 1985.

*Book
1 author*

Crump, John. "World War II." Colliers Encyclopedia. Volume 16, 1989: 742-985.

*Encyclop.
with author*

Ralston, Tom and Royal Canadian Legion. "V.E. Day." World War II. July, 2000.
25 May 2002. <<http://www.xroads.com/ww2/ve.html>>

Internet

A completed entry form must be included with each entry or it will be disqualified.

All essays and materials becomes City of Dallas property and may be reproduced in future water education literature.

Entry Form

Student Name: _____
Student Home Phone: _____ Grade _____
School: _____
School Address: _____
City: _____ Zip Code: _____
Teacher/Counselor Name: _____
Teacher/Counselor E-Mail: _____
Teacher/Counselor Phone: _____
Principal Name: _____
Principal Email: _____

REMINDER!!!!!!

Please send essay, CD and entry form by March 1, 2010 to:

**2010 Essay Contest
City of Dallas Water Conservation Division
1500 Marilla RM 5AS
Dallas, Texas 75201
ATTN: Derinda Stewart, Coordinator**

AN ENTRY FORM MUST BE SUBMITTED WITH EACH ESSAY!!!

Essay Format:

- **Format essay on 8 ½ x 11 paper (margins set 1" 12- point font, single spaced).**
- **Use Times New Roman (Do not use fancy or script fonts)**
- **Number each page on the bottom right corner**
- **On the top left side of the 1st page include:**
 - a.) **writer's name, home address, cell phone or home phone**
 - b.) **writer's email address**
 - c.) **grade (as of January 2010) and school name**