



“Wonders of Plastics” Essay Contest 2018

The Society of Plastics Engineers (SPE) presents the “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 page 2 of application form.

- First prize: \$100 Amazon Gift card for student and \$100 Amazon Gift Card for winning student’s classroom for supplies (as administered in accordance with school policies)
- 1 winner in High School Division
- 1 winner in Middle/Junior High Division

Topics to consider:

- Advantages of plastics in food packaging
- How plastics benefit humankind
- How plastics improve our lifestyle
- Plastics in the environment
- Plastics usefulness in society
- What plastics has done for me
- Why the bad reputation of plastics is wrong
- Creative ways to recycle/re-use plastics

All essay submissions and entry form must be received at the SPE Chicago email address by December 1, 2018.

- The winning entry will be publicized in the SPE Chicago Section’s Newsletter.
- Essays become the property of SPE.
- Essays may be co-authored.

Submit your Essay and Entry Form to:

e-mail: spechicago@gmail.com

Entry must be received by December 1, 2018!

REQUIREMENTS FOR SUBMISSION

General

Length: Between 500 and 1,000 words

Format: Typewritten in English on 8 ½ x 11 paper, title to appear as heading on each page; no name on any page except the entry form that must accompany each essay

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 and volunteers 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: _____

Teacher /Class: _____

Teacher E-mail: _____

Submit your Essay and Entry Form to:

SPE Chicago

email: spechicago@gmail.com