ReNEW 26

Reflective Essays on Nature, Earth and their Wonders

ESSAY CONTEST

An annual essay contest open to all Delaware high schoolers, providing a platform for them to reflect on the unique role of youth on climate action, environmental injustice, and their sense of connectedness with the natural world.



JUDGING CRITERIA

Clarity – how clearly are reflections, arguments, opinions, evidence expressed?

Passion – how well does the student convey their personal passion for their topic?

Attention to theme – how closely does writing align with the chosen topic?

Creativity – to what extent does the writing display originality of thought, both in the content of the ideas expressed and the way they are presented?

Persuasiveness/effectiveness – with consideration for attention to theme, how impactful is the writing, in terms of its ability to provide a different perspective, inspire a broader or deeper understanding, and/or compel to action?

TOPICS

- Youth Empowerment in Climate Action
- Tackling Environmental Injustices
- Personal Connection with Nature

Maximum Word Count = 1500 words

AWARDS

1st, 2nd, & 3rd, & 7 Honorable Mentions. Each of the top 10 will receive a cash prize.

- First Prize – $2000
- Second Prize – $1500
- Third Prize – $1000
- 7 Honorable Mentions – $500 each

IMPORTANT DATES

- Students pre-register for the essay contest. January 1, 2026, registration opens.
- Feb. 23, 2026, is the open date for students to begin to submit essays.
- March 16, 2026, is the deadline for students to submit essays.
- Students shall send their essays to "renew@derenew.org".
- Top essayists will receive awards at a ceremony on or around Earth Day, April 22, 2026.

https://derenew.org/renew-2026/

For more information and questions email us on ***renew@derenew.org*** or call Charanjeet Singh Minhas 302-359-2155.

www.derenew.org

Special Thanks to our sponsor.