



WATER'S WORTH IT[®]

CSWEA ESSAY CONTEST

CSWEA of Illinois invites you to join the WATER'S WORTH IT campaign by writing a short essay about water scarcity.

Essay Topic: Optimism in the face of a Global Water Crisis

Water is essential to life, yet 1 in 9 people lack access to a clean source. Much of the story of water is that of problems-- water shortages due to climate change, lack of sanitation, polluted natural waterways, contaminated drinking water, and so on. These issues are very real and impact the lives of billions of people, but there is still hope for the future. New innovations and technologies are continuously being created that can positively change the future of water. Help shine a light on the potential solutions to water scarcity by selecting one of the prompts listed below and writing a short essay.

*\$600 in
Cash
Prizes*

- **Research Prompt** *1st Place Prize of \$200 Runner-up Prize of \$100*

Research a region of the world that is currently facing a water crisis. Describe the issues they face regarding water. Explain, if any, the measures that have been taken to bring clean water to the area. If nothing has been done, why? What innovations or technologies do you believe have the potential to help with this region's water crisis? Explain what steps would need to be taken to put these new innovations and technologies into place, what difficulties there might be (ex: funding) and how these issues could be overcome. Finally, if implemented, how would these new innovations change the lives of those in this region for the better?

- **Creative Writing Prompt** *1st Place Prize of \$200 Runner-up Prize of \$100*

Imagine the year is 2041. You live in a region of the world that struggled with a water crisis (scarcity, pollution, lack of sanitation, etc.) but through new innovations and technologies, clean water is now available for your community. Write a first person narrative describing life before and after these technologies were brought to your region; be sure to include where you live, what water issues your community faced, how these issues were solved, and how life is better now that you have access to clean water.

Guidelines

- Students must be in 6th-8th grade and reside in Illinois.
- Only one essay may be submitted per student and each student must choose between the creative writing prompt and the research prompt.
- Essays must be between 300-500 words and typed in an easy to read 12 pt font. Any cited references do not count towards the word count of the essay.
- Each essay must be submitted with a cover page containing the following information: Student's name, age, grade, name and city of school, teacher's name, teacher's email, and which prompt the student selected (creative writing or research).

Essays must be digitally submitted in either WORD or PDF format no later than 12 am CST April 15th, 2021**

Submit essays to: cswea.wufoo.com/forms/2021-waters-worth-it-essay-competition

**If special circumstances require a handwritten essay, or you have any questions, please contact scioni@dgsd.org



CSWEA.ORG