



Central States Water Environment Association of Wisconsin invites you to join the WATER'S WORTH IT campaign by writing a short essay about the human role in the water cycle.

Guidelines:

- * **Students must reside in Wisconsin and be in grades 6-8th.**
- * Select a Prompt for your essay: **research or creative writing**. Students may only submit one essay for the 2023 contest.
- * Essays must be between 400-700 words. Source citations are suggested but not required. Citations do not count towards word count.
- * Font size should be between 10-12 and font should be legible (ex: Arial or Times New Roman)
- * **Essays must include a cover page containing: Essay Title, Student's Name, Grade, School, Teacher's Name, and which prompt the student chose.**
- * Essays must be submitted in Word or PDF format by **5pm on April 15th, 2023.**



Essay Submission Link:

<https://cswea.wufoo.com/forms/wi-2023-waters-worth-it-essay-competition/>

Essay Topic:

The Clean Water Act

The Clean Water Act (CWA), one of the first big US environmental laws, was enacted in 1972 to restore and protect United States waters. As the main law governing US water pollution, this legislation regulates who can put pollutants into our waters, what kind and what quantity of pollutants and what quality standards must be upheld for our waters. In recognition of the 50th anniversary of the Clean Water Act, October 18th, 2022, the President of the United States stated, "I call upon all Americans to observe this milestone, recognize the significant contribution the Clean Water Act has made to restoring our Nation's waters, consider the crucial role clean water plays in each of our lives, and recommit to protecting our shared water resources."

Research Prompt

1st Place Prize of \$200 | Teacher Prize of \$100

Research the Clean Water Act. Summarize the CWA and give specific examples of how US waters have changed in the 50 years since its enactment. Conclude by reflecting on the successes and failures of this legislation and ways you think it could be improved upon in the future.

Questions to consider while researching:

- Why was the CWA created?
- Has the CWA made any impacts to the Environment? The lives of US people? How?
- Are there examples of impacts made by the CWA in your own town? County? State?

Creative Writing Prompt

1st Place Prize of \$200 | Teacher Prize of \$100

Life as we know it today would be quite different if the Clean Water Act was not enacted. Imagine there were no laws governing the pollution of our waters. Write a first-person essay highlighting your life without water pollution control.

Questions to consider while writing:

- How is life at home? Food preparation? Personal hygiene?
- How does your environment look? Cities? Natural areas? Wildlife?
- How is day to day life impacted?
- What is society like?
- How has our lack of water pollution control affected other parts of the world?

If special circumstances require a handwritten essay, or if you have any questions, please contact Gina Koch | gina.koch@cityofracine.org