

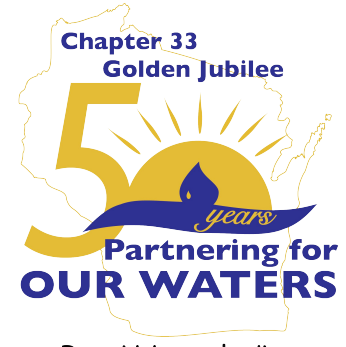
WSST & Wisconsin Water Week



Brought to you by WSST

Present the 2024 Essay Contest

Deadline: March 1, 2024



Brought to you by the
Extension Lakes Program at
UW-Stevens Point

Write an essay on the topic given for your grade level

K-1	<p>Every living thing on Earth needs water.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• What are the different ways we use water every day? (drinking, showering, cooking, laundry but also for recreation and relaxation)• What would happen if we didn't have clean water?• As people who live in Wisconsin, do we need lakes? How do we use lakes?
2-3	<p>Every living thing on Earth needs water.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• What are the different ways we use water every day? (drinking, showering, cooking, laundry but also for recreation and relaxation)• What would happen if we didn't have clean water?• As people who live in Wisconsin, do we need lakes? How do we use lakes?• Who helps take care of these lakes?
4-5	<p>The lakes in Wisconsin belong to all of us. They are a public good which means we all can use them to swim, boat, fish, etc. Thousands of people volunteer their time to help care for our lakes. Many of them belong to organizations that are made up of many people that work together to protect our lakes.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• What do you like to do at lakes?• Do you have a special lake you visit?• What does it mean for a lake or river to be healthy? How do you know if it's healthy?• Whose job is it to make sure lakes and rivers stay healthy?

Upper Levels next page. 

6-8	<p>Wisconsin has over 15,000 lakes and thousands of miles of rivers and streams; however, there aren't enough careers to support the thousands of people needed to care for these lakes and rivers. Instead of people getting paid to care for our waters, thousands of volunteers work daily to monitor, maintain, and protect our lakes and rivers.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Have you volunteered for something before? · Why is it important for people to volunteer? <p>Many of these volunteers belong to organizations that are made up of many people that work together to protect our lakes.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Do you belong to a group of people who work together to get something done? · Why do you think it is important for people to belong to organizations?
9-12	<p>Wisconsin has over 15,000 lakes and thousands of miles of rivers and streams; however, there aren't enough careers to support the thousands of people needed to care for these lakes and rivers. Instead of people getting paid to care for our waters, thousands of volunteers work daily to monitor, maintain, and protect our lakes and rivers.</p> <p>To support the work of volunteers, in 1974 a law was created to help protect Wisconsin lakes. In 2024, we will be celebrating 50 years of this law being in existence. This lake law is called Chapter 33: Public Inland Waters. It created the pathway for landowners around lakes to form Public Inland Lake Protection and Rehabilitation Districts. Today, over 250 lake districts exist in the state, and they all operate under the same policies and rules laid out in Chapter 33.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Can you describe how laws are formed in Wisconsin? · Why is this lake law called Chapter 33? · Why do you think it's important for landowners to form Lake Protection and Rehabilitation Districts? · Do you think 250 lake districts is a lot? Or do you think Wisconsin needs more lake districts? Why? <p>Resource to Learn about Lake Districts and Chapter 33: https://www3.uwsp.edu/cnr-ap/UWEXLakes/Pages/organizations/districts/default.aspx</p>



Awards

The winning essay in each category will receive a \$100 prize and publication in the WSST newsletter and website. The teacher of the winning submission will also receive a \$100 prize. Honorable mention in each category will receive \$50 prize.

Additional highly rated essays may be published to the WSST website at the discretion of the contest organizers, as well as shared with the water community through the Wisconsin Lakes and Rivers Partnership's Lake Tides publication

(<https://www.uwsp.edu/cnr-ap/UWEXLakes/Pages/resources/newsletter/default.aspx>). Results will be shared at the 2024 WSST Conference in LaCrosse, the 2024 Wisconsin Lakes and Rivers Convention in Stevens Point, and on Wisconsin Society of Science Teachers Website, www.wsst.org. The events and postings will be held in April of 2024.

Eligibility

Any current WSST member can submit one student essay for each science course they teach. Student essays must be original work and be submitted in one of five categories: K-1, 2-3, 4-5, 6-8, and 9-12.

*No student self-submitted entries will be accepted. Essays must be submitted by a current WSST member.

Format

- K-1 category: Essays should be between 150-300 words and can include a picture. K-1 teachers can help with the conversion of spoken essay to text.
- All other essays should be **500 words or less** in length. The essays are required to be typed, 12 point font, and double spaced.
- Text to speech and other adaptations may be made at any grade level based on a student's Individualized Education Program.

Submission

Submissions should be emailed as **ONE** file that includes both the essay and release form in .pdf format to essay@wsst.org. All submissions must be received by 5:00 pm (CST) on March 1, 2024. All WSST communications in regards to essays will be made with submitting teacher.

Essays submitted after 5:00 pm (CST) on March 1, 2024 are longer than 500 words, or do not include a signed release form may be disqualified. Submissions that cannot be read will not be judged. The decisions of the judges are final.

Judging Criteria*

Adherence to Topic (50%)

The essay clearly addresses the theme of the competition and answers the question specified for each grade level. In addition to answering the question, the essay provides a clear understanding of the process of science and is scientifically accurate.

Creativity (30%)

Points in this category are awarded to essays that provoke a lot of thought by the reader, express ideas in novel ways, make clever use of vocabulary, or use interesting metaphors or poignant stories.

Structures (20%)

The essay is organized in a way that makes it easy for the reader to follow. In addition, the essay shows grade level appropriate use of grammar, vocabulary, and writing conventions. The essay must be typed using 12-point font, double spaced and less than 500 words. Teachers of students in the K-1 category can help with conversion of spoken essays to text.

*Text to speech and other adaptations may be made at any grade level based on a student's Individualized Education Program.

WSST will notify the submitting teachers of winning essay prior to the conference to obtain student and teacher photos to create displays for the conferences.

Rubric for Science Matters Essay Contest

Entry Number: _____ Reader: _____

Criteria	Exemplary (8)	Proficient (6)	Basic (4)	Not Demonstrated (Less than or equal to 2)	Points
Adherence to Topic (Development of Ideas & Content)	Well-developed ideas; introduces ideas, and responds to Essay prompts connecting with core content of the topic. The essay provides a clear understanding of the process of science and is scientifically accurate.	Developing ideas, sometimes connecting with core content of the Essay topic. The essay provides some understanding of the process of science and is mostly scientifically accurate.	Ideas are there but not fully developed; does not connect with core content of the Essay topic. The essay provides limited understanding of the process of science and is barely scientifically accurate.	Poorly developed ideas, which do not add to or connect with core content of topic. The essay does not provide an understanding of the process of science and is not scientifically accurate.	
Creativity (Critical Thinking)	Clear evidence of critical thinking application, analysis, synthesis, and evaluation. Essay entry characterized by clarity of argument, depth of insight into issues, originality of treatment, and relevance. Sometimes include unusual insights. Arguments well supported. Essay entry has clever use of vocabulary, or uses interesting metaphors or uses poignant stories.	Beginning of critical thinking, Essay entry tends to address peripheral issues. Generally accurate, but could be improved with more analysis and creative thought. Tendency to recite facts or textual information rather than address issues. Essay entry is articulate and understandable, but there are minor errors in clever use of vocabulary or, interesting metaphors or, poignant stories.	Critical thinking evidence not fully formed in Essay entry. Several tangential issues addressed. Some accuracy, but much more analysis and thought needed. Almost exclusively repeating information from the text's materials rather than addressing issues. Essay entry is well written but does not include clever use of vocabulary or use interesting metaphors or use poignant stories.	Poorly developed critical thinking. Essay is poorly written and does not include clever use of vocabulary or use interesting metaphors or use poignant stories.	
Structures (Writing Mechanics, Clarity, Format & layout, timeliness)	Essay entry is well articulated and understandable; flawless grammar, punctuation, and usage. Follows the format and layout according to guidelines provided. Essay entry completed and submitted on time.	Essay entry is articulate and understandable, but there are minor errors in grammar, punctuation, and/or usage. Follows the format and layout according to guidelines provided but there are minor errors.	Essay entry is occasionally difficult to understand with several errors in grammar, punctuation, and/or usage. Follows the format and layout according to the guidelines but there are several errors.	Essay entry is difficult to understand with many errors. Follows the format and layout according to guidelines, but has many errors.	
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Essay Contest

Participant Release Form

Your essay may be published and/or displayed on a public internet website (www.wsst.org) as well as in other formats, including the WSST newsletter. By signing this release form you and/or your parent or legal guardian acknowledge that the essay may be made publicly available and you and/or your parent or legal guardian consent to this use of your essay. The scanned release must be received by WSST as part of your essay submission by 5:00 pm (CST) on February 20, 2023.

I agree that my essay may be used, edited, reproduced, distributed, and presented in any non-commercial educational way deemed proper by the contest organizers without any additional consent, or payment to me or anyone else. There is no time limit on the validity of this release nor is there any geographic limitation on where my essay may be used, distributed or presented.

Entrant photos may be collected to be used at both the WSST Conference and the Wisconsin Lakes and Rivers Convention in Stevens Point. Winning entrant names and schools may be published on our website and Facebook page.

In addition, I certify that the essay submitted for this contest is my own work.

Name of Student (print): _____ Grade Level: _____

Student Signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent/Guardian Name (printed): _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Teacher Name: _____

School: _____

Street Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____

Zip: _____