

Essay Contest Rules for 2018
Hinds County Soil and Water Conservation District
Open to all 7th – 12th grade students in Hinds County
(Includes public, private, charter or home school students)

DUE DATE:

- Friday, April 6, 2018 by 4:30 p.m. All entries must be received in our office and may be submitted before the deadline.**
- The address is 322 New Market Dr., Jackson, MS 39209
Phone number is (601) 718-2885**
- School pickup is not available.**



THEME: The theme for the contest this year is “**Watersheds, Our Water, Our Home**”. A watershed is land that sheds water. Every piece of land on the planet is part of a watershed. Even the desert known as Death Valley is part of a watershed. You’re sitting in a watershed right now!

FORMAT AND STYLE: Essays may be typed or legibly handwritten using only the front side of each page.

- Essays must be a minimum of 300 words and a maximum of 500 words.**

COVER SHEET: **A cover sheet must be attached to the front of the essay and must include:**

- Student first name and last name
- Additional information should be included on the Official Entry Form

REFERENCE LIST: A list of references should be included as the last page of the essay.

JUDGING: Essays are judged by a panel selected by the Soil and Water Conservation District. All first place County winners will advance to the central area competition. Any first place winning entries in the Central Area competition will advance to the state then national competitions.

SCORING: The scoring rubric is as follows: 40% Originality of message and theme, 40% Story structure and use of literary devices, and 20% Relevance and quality.

AWARDS: County winners for first, second or third place will receive a ribbon, certificate and cash award. **The cash awards are First place-- \$40.00, Second place--\$30.00 and Third place--\$20.00.**

OFFICIAL ENTRY FORM: Each entry must include the official entry form completely filled in and legible to be eligible. One entry per person.

PRIVACY: Unless otherwise specified, any and all information collected in connection with this Contest will be used by the SWCD solely for the purpose of administering the Contest.

NO COMPENSATION: You agree and understand you will not receive compensation of any kind for the submission and/or subsequent use outside of any prize which might be awarded.

ORIGINAL ESSAY: You certify the submitted entry is original.

ESSAYS WILL NOT BE RETURNED: You acknowledge your entry will not be returned regardless of whether or not yours is chosen to win one of the prizes as part of the Contest.