

**The University of Scranton**  
**Pennsylvania American Water**  
**Essay Contest**  
**Earth Day 2014**  
**Water: Our Most Precious Resource**

Area students in grades 7-12 can participate in an environmental essay contest at The University of Scranton as part of its Earth Day 2014 program. The University's student Sustainability Club will host a reception for participants and their families and teachers Thursday, April 24, from 7 to 9 p.m. in the Loyola Science Center, which will feature an exhibit of the submissions. Essay contest winners will be announced at a brief ceremony at 7:30 p.m. that evening. The informal event will include interactive science experiments and displays presented by University students and faculty, refreshments and an evening astronomy observation (weather permitting). The University will display essay submissions and NEPA art contest submissions in the Loyola Science Center from April 22 (Earth Day) through to the reception. The essay contest is sponsored by The University of Scranton and Pennsylvania American Water.

The theme for this year's Essay Contest, is **"Water: Our Most Precious Resource."**

**Requirements:**

Student's essays need to identify a current issue that poses a threat to water; address the impact of the threat/issue on the resource, environment and/or population; and articulate a reasonable plan of action addressing the matter, which includes steps that can be taken to change it. The essay should provide a clear understanding of the topic.

- **7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade essays must be between 200 and 400 words**
- **9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grade essays must be between 300 and 500 words**

Each essay must be type written (word processed) and the original work of the submitter (plagiarized submissions or hand written essays will not be accepted). Submissions must include the student's name, address, phone number, email, grade, age, and school. Please note the name of teacher if this is this is part of a school or class project. All essays must also include the number of words in the essay. There is no charge for the submissions.

The University reserves the right to choose which essays are showcased in its exhibit.

Contest winners will be announced and recognized at the April 24 event.

**Submissions should be sent to:** The University of Scranton, Provost Office, 800 Linden Street, Scranton, PA 18510, Attn: Earth Day Essay Contest. Submissions must be postmarked on or before March 29, to be considered.

Submissions can be picked-up at the University immediately following the April 24 event at the Loyola Science Center.

Contact The University of Scranton at 570-941-7669 if other arrangements need to be made to return the submitted pieces.

**Judging:**

Essays will be judged based on the following:

- 75% - Content. Important points to remember: essays must clearly identify a threat to the water system, express the impact the threat poses, address a solution and demonstrate an understanding of the topic.
- 15% - Grammar, spelling, etc.
- 10% - Form. Submissions must include student's name, grade, school, and other requirements as listed.

Submitted essays will be exhibited at the University's Loyola Science Center from April 22 (Earth Day) through the April 24 evening reception for participants and their families and teachers. Winners will be announced a brief ceremony at 7:30 p.m. at the reception.

The University reserves the right to choose which essays are showcased in its exhibit.