

**The University of Scranton**  
**Essay Contest**  
**Celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Earth Day 2020**  
**“Sustainability for the Earth: Choose It or Lose It”**

Area students in grades 7-12 may participate in an environmental essay contest at The University of Scranton as part of its Celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Earth Day 2020 program. The University’s Sustainability Office and student Sustainability and Conservation Society will host an Evening of Environmental Science reception for participants and their families and teachers on Wednesday, April 22, 2020 from 6 to 7:30 p.m. in the Loyola Science Center Lobby, which will feature an exhibit of the submissions.

Essay contest winners will be announced at a brief ceremony at 6:30 p.m. that evening. The informal event will include interactive science experiments and displays presented by University students and faculty; refreshments will be served. The University will display essay submissions in the Loyola Science Center from April 20 until the April 22, 2020 reception. The essay contest is sponsored by The University of Scranton.

The theme for this year’s Essay Contest is:

**“SUSTAINABILITY FOR THE EARTH: CHOOSE IT OR LOSE IT.”**

**Possible topics:** Conservation; recycling; healthy eating; animal agriculture; renewable energy; eliminating single use containers; bees; gardening; transportation.

**Requirements:** Student essays need to clearly explain their position on their topic and include information on the topic’s impact on the earth. The essay should provide a clear understanding of the topic and the theme.

- **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 should be included if this is part of a school or class project. All essays must also include the total number of words in the essay. There is no charge for 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 22nd event.

**Submissions should be sent to:**

- Electronic submissions deadline is April 15, 2020. Please email to [Susan.Falbo@scranton.edu](mailto:Susan.Falbo@scranton.edu).
- Or mail 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 April 10, 2020 to be considered.

Submissions may be picked-up at the University immediately following the April 22 event at the Loyola Science Center Atrium.

**Judging:** Essays will be judged based on the following:

- 75% - Content. Important points to remember: essays must show a clear understanding of sustainability, your specific topic, and the impact on the Earth.
- 15% - Grammar, spelling, etc.
- 10% - Form. Submissions must include student's name, grade, school, and other requirements as listed above.

Submitted essays will be exhibited at the University's Loyola Science Center from April 20 through the April 22, 2020 (Evening of Environmental Science reception for participants and their families and teachers). Winners will be announced at a brief ceremony at the reception. Finalist will receive certificates and Earth Day medals.

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