

The University of Scranton Essay Contest Earth Day 2021 “Caring for our Common Home”

Area students in grades 7-12 may participate in an environmental essay contest at The University of Scranton as part of its celebration of Earth Day 2021. The University’s Sustainability Office and student Sustainability and Conservation Society will announce the winners at a virtual program for participants and their families and teachers on Thursday, April 22, 2021, beginning at 7:00 p.m.

The theme for this year’s Essay Contest is: “Caring for our Common Home.”

Possible topics: Conservation; recycling; animal agriculture; renewable energy; eliminating single use containers; bees; gardening; transportation, Paris Climate Agreement, Laudato Si, food composting, plant based diets.

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.

7th and 8th grade essays must be between 200 and 400 words

9th, 10th, 11th and 12th 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 program. Contest winners will be announced and recognized at the April 22nd virtual event.

Electronic Submissions should be emailed to: Susan.Falbo@scranton.edu.

Deadline for electronic submission is **April 9, 2021**

****No mail-in entries are being accepted in 2021****

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.

Winners will be announced at a virtual ceremony on April 22. Finalist will receive certificates and Earth Day medals. The University reserves the right to choose which essays are showcased in its program. <https://www.scranton.edu/sustainability>.