

# ECO-TOPIC ESSAY CONTEST



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Boone County Solid Waste is happy to announce its first-ever foray into environmental writing scholarship! The Eco-Topic Essay Contest is open to all Boone County Students, Kindergarten through twelfth grade. While the contest will always center on some aspect of recycling, this year's topic is focused on electronics recycling.

## Judging

To ensure fair judging, entries will be divided into three categories: high school students in grades 9th-12th, middle school students in 6th-8th grades, and elementary students from Kindergarten to 5th grade. Each of the three levels will be judged separately on their ability in comparison to their peers and each level will have selected a first, second and third place winner. Essays will be judged by a panel of qualified representatives of the environmental and literary fields. The decisions of the judges will be final.

## Judging Criteria

Judges will be looking for essays that demonstrate:

- > Sound content (40%). This includes effectiveness, insightfulness, creativity, and completeness of discussion as well as an overall comprehension of subject matter and related topics. Independent inquiry and critical thought are strongly encouraged.
- > Clear and well-constructed organization (30%). This includes clarity in writing style coupled with a logical development of the ideas expressed. Each claim should be supported by concise and appropriate examples.
- > Consistency in the use of language (30%). This includes demonstration of variety in sentence structure, a range of vocabulary, and the use of proper grammar, spelling, and punctuation.

Any entries that include inaccurate or unacknowledged information will be disqualified. If necessary, a uniformly formatted works cited page or bibliography, may be included.

## Prizes

First, second and third prizes will be awarded to each of the three levels, high school, middle school and elementary school.

1<sup>st</sup> prize is a Laptop Computer – Courtesy of Apex Technology Solutions, Inc.

2<sup>nd</sup> prize is \$100.00 check - Courtesy of Bavarian Waste Services

3<sup>rd</sup> prize is a \$50.00 check - Courtesy of Bavarian Waste Services

## Deadline

Essays must be delivered to Boone County Solid Waste or ready for pickup on or before Thursday, February 14, 2008 by 3:00 pm. Arrangements may be made for pick-up or delivery of entries by calling the 334-3151. Schools will be given a list of winning entrants on or before Monday, February 25, 2008. Parents will be contacted on or before that date only if their child will receive a prize.

## Contest Sponsorship

The Eco-Topic Essay Contest is coordinated by Boone County Solid Waste, a division of Boone County Public Works and is made possible by the generosity of Apex Technology Solutions, Inc. (<http://www.apextecsol.com/>) and Bavarian Waste Services (<http://www.bavarianwaste.com/>). If you have any questions about this program at all, please feel free to contact Becky Haltermon at (859) 334-4808 or [bhaltermon@boonecountyky.org](mailto:bhaltermon@boonecountyky.org).

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## Rules

- › Plagiarism of any kind is strictly prohibited.
- › Entries are limited to one (1) per student.
- › Entrants must be residents of Boone County or attend a school that is located within the County.
- › A completed Entry Form Cover Sheet must be attached to each entry. The forms can be found at <http://www.boonecountky.org/BCSWM/>.
- › The student's name must be noted on the cover sheet ONLY to ensure impartial judging.
- › Each entry must have a title.
- › Entries may include illustrations or photographs but all graphic material must be original and not copyrighted.
- › All entries become property of Boone County Public Works, Division of Solid Waste and will be considered to be nonproprietary
- › Boone County Public Works, Division of Solid Waste will have no obligations of any kind with respect to any essay submitted and will be free to edit, reproduce, use, disclose, publish and/or distribute any essay for any purpose whatsoever, without limitation.
- › Boone County Public Works, Division of Solid Waste reserves the right to disqualify any entry deemed inappropriate for publication, at their discretion.

## High School

High school entrants must base their essay on ONE of the following prompts:

1. What is the importance of recycling electronic devices such as computers, televisions and cell phones? What are the consequences for humanity and environment if electronics are not recycled?
2. What are some of the problems that have faced electronics recycling programs as the field develops? How have these problems been resolved? What are some of the trends you see developing in the realm of electronics recycling?
3. Discuss the availability of electronics recycling programs in our area and across the United States. Are the existing programs adequate to address the future of electronics recycling? What roles do government and private industry play in the field?

The high school level essay must be at least 600 words and is not to exceed 900 words. Entries must be typewritten in Times New Roman font, double-spaced, and include one-inch margins on all sides. The title is to appear as a heading on each page but the student's name must not appear on any page except the Entry Form Cover Sheet that must accompany each essay.

## Middle School

Middle School entrants must base their essay on ONE of the following prompts:

1. Choose one type of electronic (computers, televisions, gaming systems, cell phones) and explain the process involved in recycling it. What kinds of hazardous materials do these devices contain? How are they disposed of safely?
2. How does your school dispose of electronics? How do they ensure that hazardous materials are safely disposed of? Interview an expert at your school about this topic.

The middle school level essay must be at least 200 words and is not to exceed 600 words. Entries must be typewritten in Times New Roman font, double-spaced, and include one-inch margins on all sides. The title is to appear as a heading on each page but the student's name must not appear on any page except the Entry Form Cover Sheet that must accompany each essay.

## Elementary School

Elementary School entrants must base their essay on the following prompt:

What does it mean to recycle electronics? How is recycling electronic items like computers different from recycling everyday items like plastic bottles?

The elementary level essay must be a least 50 words and is not to exceed 100 words. They may be typewritten in Times New Roman font and double-spaced or they may be neatly handwritten. The title is to appear as a heading on each page but the student's name must not appear on any page except the Entry Form Cover Sheet that must accompany each essay.

good luck!

