

2023

Poster, Poetry, and Prose Contest

# ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE:

A HEALTHY COMMUNITY FOR ALL!

## Participants

- Illinois 5th and 6th grade students



[bit.ly/3s6Dj03](https://bit.ly/3s6Dj03)

## Entry Guidelines

- Submit entries by February 1, 2023
- Include Entry ID Form and Release Form
- All entries must be submitted electronically

## Theme focus:

Understanding environmental justice and how it relates to healthy communities.

## Awards:

- All participants will receive a certificate
- Finalists will receive a ribbon and an invitation for the awards ceremony
- You could win an environmental reference book for your school library

**Sponsored by the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency**

Contact: Kristi Morris, Environmental Education Coordinator - [Kristi.Morris@illinois.gov](mailto:Kristi.Morris@illinois.gov)

# 2023 Poster, Poetry and Prose Contest

## Contest Rules, Information, and Timetable

### Environmental Justice: A Healthy Community for All!

**Theme Focus:** Understanding environmental justice and how it relates to healthy communities

**Participants:** Illinois fifth and sixth grade students

**Art guidelines:**

- Art paper or poster board no smaller than 8-1/2" x 11" and no larger than 12" x 18"
- Markers, crayons, pens, pencils, paints, or graphics software (two-dimensional media only)
- **Must be own work**

**Poetry/Prose guidelines:**

- One page maximum length, one-sided (no larger than 8-1/2" x 11" sheet)
- Neatly handwritten or typed; minimum 10-point font (must be readable)

***Entries must be submitted electronically (word, pdf, jpeg or tiff files).***

***The max number of entries per school is eight.***

NOTE: Each student must submit a release form and entry ID with his or her work. Only one person per entry (no group projects).

***Each student's work will be judged on:***

- Understanding of the concept
- Originality of execution -- no magazine articles, commercial slogans or copyrighted characters or figures
- Clear, accurate message
- Emphasis on the theme focus
- Neatness/attractiveness, legibility/readability, correct spelling, punctuation, and grammar
- Effort that was put into the work

***Submission Process:***

- Choose **eight entries** (four art and four written works) to represent your school
- Make sure completed identification forms are included
- Each entry must include a release form filled out and signed at the time of submission
- Entries must be emailed no later than **February 1, 2023**
- Email entries, ID and release forms (word, pdf, jpeg or tiff files) to: [EPA.contest@illinois.gov](mailto:EPA.contest@illinois.gov)

*All entries become the property of the Illinois EPA and will be distributed for judging.*

***Awards:***

Each participating student whose work meets the guidelines and requirements will receive a certificate. Finalists will receive a certificate, a ribbon, and an invitation to the awards ceremony in Springfield (subject to change). If we are unable to hold an awards ceremony, or if a student is unable to attend, awards will be mailed to the teacher for distribution. Finalists include top winners, honorable mention and special recognition. There will be twelve top winners (six in each category) whose work will be displayed as such and will receive an environmental reference book for their school's library.

# Contest Timeline and Resources

January 2023	Educators introduce Environmental Justice, what it is, how some communities are disproportionately impacted by pollution, and why it is important that their voices are heard.
January 17-20	Students create posters or written works relating to the theme focus: <b>Environmental Justice: A Healthy Environment for All!</b>
January 23-27	Teachers display posters and poems/prose at their schools. Students and faculty vote to select four posters and four written entries to submit to the Illinois EPA for further judging.
February 1	Teachers submit up to <b>eight</b> entries per school to the Illinois EPA for judging. <b>Entries must be submitted electronically by February 1, 2023.</b>
February 2023	Judging
April 2023	Awards Ceremony held in Springfield - <i>tentative</i>

If you have any questions, please contact: Kristi Morris, Environmental Education Coordinator, at: [kristi.morris@illinois.gov](mailto:kristi.morris@illinois.gov). For more information or to download the participation packet, please visit the website at: [www2.illinois.gov/epa/topics/education/contest/Pages/default.aspx](http://www2.illinois.gov/epa/topics/education/contest/Pages/default.aspx).

Informational resources can be found on the following websites:

- Educators 4 Social Change, Teaching About Environmental Justice: [educators4sc.org/topic-guides/teaching-about-environmental-justice/](http://educators4sc.org/topic-guides/teaching-about-environmental-justice/).
- Project Learning Tree, Environmental Justice for All activity: [www.plt.org/activity-resources/grades-6-8-activity-environmental-justice-for-all/](http://www.plt.org/activity-resources/grades-6-8-activity-environmental-justice-for-all/).
- Scholastic News, *I'm Working to Save My City!*: <https://sn56.scholastic.com/issues/2019-20/100719/im-working-to-save-my-city.html#On%20Level>
- IL-IN Sea Grant, Freedom Seekers Curriculum: <https://iiseagrant.org/freedom-seekers-curriculum/>
- Natural Resources Defense Council, the Environmental Justice Movement: <http://www.nrdc.org/ej/history/hej2.asp>
- National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences, Environmental Justice...What Does That Mean? [kids.niehs.nih.gov/topics/environment-health/environmental-justice/index.htm](http://kids.niehs.nih.gov/topics/environment-health/environmental-justice/index.htm)
- Young Voices for the Planets: [www.youngvoicesfortheplanet.com/](http://www.youngvoicesfortheplanet.com/)
- Earth Force, Tools to Implement Environmental Action Civics: [earthforceresources.org/](http://earthforceresources.org/)
- U.S. EPA: Learn About Environmental Justice: [www.epa.gov/environmentaljustice/learn-about-environmental-justice](http://www.epa.gov/environmentaljustice/learn-about-environmental-justice), Voices: [www.epa.gov/environmentaljustice/community-voices-environmental-justice](http://www.epa.gov/environmentaljustice/community-voices-environmental-justice), and timeline: [www.epa.gov/environmentaljustice](http://www.epa.gov/environmentaljustice).
- Illinois EPA, Environmental Justice Policy: [www2.illinois.gov/epa/topics/environmental-justice/Pages/ej-policy.aspx](http://www2.illinois.gov/epa/topics/environmental-justice/Pages/ej-policy.aspx)

## **Art/Poster Entry Identification**

*PLEASE FILL OUT THIS FORM AND RETURN IT WITH THE 2023 ART/POSTER ENTRY.*

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Parent's Email: \_\_\_\_\_

School: \_\_\_\_\_ County: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Educator: \_\_\_\_\_ Educator's Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Student's statement about work: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## **Written Entry Identification**

*PLEASE FILL OUT THIS FORM AND RETURN IT WITH THE 2023 WRITTEN ENTRY.*

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Parent's Email: \_\_\_\_\_

School: \_\_\_\_\_ County: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Educator: \_\_\_\_\_ Educator's Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Student's statement about work: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

# Appearance and Material Release Form 2023

In consideration that (student name), \_\_\_\_\_,  
has entered the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency's *Environmental Justice: A Healthy Community for All!* contest and said works are the property of the Illinois EPA, I hereby give my consent to the Illinois EPA to publish my **child's name, school, city, photo, and creative works** on the Illinois EPA's Internet site, publications and social media for educational, informational, marketing or other purposes deemed necessary.

I hereby waive any right that I may otherwise have to inspect or approve the finished product, or the manner of its use chosen by the Illinois EPA. I also release, discharge and agree to hold harmless the Illinois EPA to whom this consent and waiver is given from any liability by virtue of any blurring, distortion, alteration, or use in composite form, whether intentional or otherwise, that may occur or be produced in the taking of said pictures or in any processing, or in the publication and distribution. I understand that I shall receive no compensation whatsoever in connection with the foregoing, beyond my child's opportunity to participate. I hereby waive all rights of privacy in connection with the use of my child's name, school, city, photo, or creative works. I also waive any and all rights, whether explicit or implied, in the material and consent without reservation to the Illinois EPA using, distributing or otherwise making available the material to other parties as it sees fit.

***Parent or legal guardian must sign below (unless student is 18 years of age or older):***

**Parent/Guardian Name**

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**Contact number or email**

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**Address**

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**Parent or Student (*if 18 or older*)**

**Signature** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date** \_\_\_\_\_

# Student Contest Evaluation Form

Based on a scale of 1 to 5 (1 being poor to 5 being very good), give each work a rating in each category. Select the four posters and the four written works (poem and/or prose) with the highest score to represent your school. Send these eight entries to the Illinois EPA for further judging.

Note: All work should reflect the theme:

# Environmental Justice: A Healthy Community for All!

[illegible]