

2023

Poster, Poetry, and Essay Contest

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE:

A HEALTHY COMMUNITY FOR ALL- UPLIFTING COMMUNITY VOICES!

Participants

- Illinois high school
9th - 12th grade
students



bit.ly/3TfHHGy

Entry Guidelines

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

Theme Focus:

Understanding the need for environmental justice and why voices from overburdened communities (minority, low-income, tribal, or indigenous populations or geographic locations in the US that potentially experience disproportionate environmental harms and risks) are vital to the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies.

Awards:

- First Place: \$250 gift card
- Second Place: \$150 gift card
- Third Place: \$100 gift card

Sponsored by the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency

Contact: Kristi Morris, Environmental Education Coordinator - Kristi.Morris@illinois.gov

2023 High School Poster, Poetry, and Essay Contest

Contest Rules, Information, and Timetable

Environmental Justice: A Healthy Community for All - Uplifting Community Voices!

Theme Focus: Understanding the need for environmental justice and why voices from overburdened communities (minority, low-income, tribal, or indigenous populations or geographic locations in the US that potentially experience disproportionate environmental harms and risks) are vital to the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies

Participants: Illinois high school (9th – 12th grades) students

Poster and Poetry 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)
- 1 page-long poetry maximum, (no larger than 8-1/2" x 11" sheet)
- Typed, minimum 10-pt. font for poetry
- **Must be own work**

Essay guidelines:

- 1000 words maximum length, (no longer than 3 pages)
- Typed; minimum 10-pt. font (no handwritten entries)

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

The max number of entries per school is eight. Students may submit their entry individually.

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 (students may submit their entry individually if the entire class is not participating)
- Make sure completed identification forms are included
- Each entry must include a release form filled out and signed at the time of submission (students may sign their own if 18 years of age or older)
- 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

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

Awards (poster and poetry category)

- | | |
|--------------|-----------------|
| First Place | \$250 gift card |
| Second Place | \$150 gift card |
| Third Place | \$100 gift card |

Awards (essay category)

- | | |
|--------------|-----------------|
| First Place | \$250 gift card |
| Second Place | \$150 gift card |
| Third Place | \$100 gift card |

Contest Timeline and Resources

January 2023	Learn about Environmental Justice, what it means, why supporting marginalized groups creates a healthy environment for everyone, and how valuing all voices in a diverse range of communities, especially those in overburdened communities, fosters healthy environments for all.
January 17-20	Students create posters or written works relating to the theme focus: Environmental Justice: A Healthy Environment for All - Uplifting Community Voices!
January 23-27	If applicable, teachers display posters, poems and essays at their school. Students and faculty vote to select four posters/poems and four essay entries to submit to the Illinois EPA for further judging.
February 1	Students submit their entry, or teachers submit up to eight entries per school to the Illinois EPA for judging. Entries must be submitted electronically by February 1, 2023.
February	Judging
April 2023	Winners notified

If you have any questions, please contact: Kristi Morris, Environmental Education Coordinator, at: kristi.morris@illinois.gov. For more information or to download the participation packet, please visit the website at:
<https://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/
- Project Learning Tree, Environmental Justice for All activity: www.plt.org/activity-resources/grades-6-8-activity-environmental-justice-for-all/.
- 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>
- Young Voices for the Planets: www.youngvoicesfortheplanet.com/
- Earth Force, Tools to Implement Environmental Action Civics: earthforceresources.org/
- National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences, Environmental Justice...What Does That Mean? kids.niehs.nih.gov/topics/environment-health/environmental-justice/index.htm
- National Institute for Health Care Management Foundation, Air Pollution and Environmental Justice: nihcm.org/publications/air-pollution-and-environmental-justice
- U.S. EPA: Learn About Environmental Justice: www.epa.gov/environmentaljustice/learn-about-environmental-justice, Voices: www.epa.gov/environmentaljustice/community-voices-environmental-justice, and timeline: www.epa.gov/environmentaljustice.
- Illinois EPA, Environmental Justice Policy: www2.illinois.gov/epa/topics/environmental-justice/Pages/ej-policy.aspx
- Justice40 Initiative Environmental Justice Fact Sheet: https://www.energy.gov/sites/default/files/2022-07/Environmental%20Justice%20Explainer%207_25_22.pdf

Poster/Poetry Entry Identification

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

Student Name: _____ Grade: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Student's Email: _____

School: _____ County: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ Zip: _____

Educator: _____ Educator's Email: _____

Student's statement about work: _____

Essay Entry Identification

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

Student Name: _____ Grade: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Student'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

Contact number or email

Address

Parent or Student (if 18 or older)

Signature _____ **Date** _____

HS 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 according to the categories below. Please see rubric for more information. If competing school-wide, please select four posters/poems and essays with the highest scores to represent your school. Send these eight entries to the Illinois EPA for further judging. Otherwise, use this as a tool to increase your chances of a higher score.

Note: All work should reflect the theme:

Environmental Justice: A Healthy Community for All— Uplifting Community Voices!