

FOREST PRODUCTS WEEK

ESSAY CONTEST



Forests provide us with many things—clean air and water; beautiful places to play and relax; homes for birds, fish and other wildlife; and numerous products for people. To celebrate National Forest Products Week (October 19-25, 2008) the Idaho Forest Products Commission sponsors a statewide essay contest. JOIN THE FUN! Encourage your students to enter the contest to practice authentic writing and win \$\$ for themselves and their class.

Who may enter?

All K-12 students in Idaho are eligible for the contest.

What are the submission requirements?

- ✓ See the other side of this sheet for a Background Statement, Writing Prompts and Scoring Criteria.
- ✓ Each essay must include the student name, teacher name, email, grade, school name and town. (An easy way to accomplish this is to make adhesive labels.)
- ✓ Teachers: Submit only the top five essays per class. If you send more than five per class, the judges are unable to review your essays. Teachers with multiple sections of a class (e.g. Biology) may send the top five essays per class session. *Please include a list of all students who complete an essay, so we may provide a Certificate of Participation for every student.*

What are the prizes?

Each winning essayist receives a \$100 savings bond, and their class receives \$200. There is a string attached: The winning essayist must help decide how the class spends its award! *Honorable mentions are named at each level.*

When are the essays due?

Essay submissions must be postmarked by 10/30/08. Emailed submissions are not accepted.

Where should the essays be sent?

Send your essays (top five per class) to:

IFPC Essay Contest
350 N. 9th St., #500
Boise, ID 83702

What if I have questions?

Visit our website at www.idahoforests.org, email plt@idahoforests.org, call 208-334-4061 or 800-ID-WOODS, or fax 208-334-3449.



Idaho Forest Products Commission, 350 N 9th St, #500, Boise ID 83702

www.idahoforests.org

FOREST PRODUCTS WEEK ESSAY CONTEST

BACKGROUND STATEMENT

Forests and trees provide many things—clean air and water; beautiful places to play and relax; homes for birds, fish and other wildlife; and numerous products for people. Many of these products, like wood and paper, are obvious. There are also many not-so-obvious products that come from trees.

One of the best things about trees is that they are a renewable resource. When you harvest trees, new ones grow or can be planted. With sustainable forestry practices, our forests can continue to provide their many benefits for generations to come.

WRITING PROMPT for Grades K-5*

Think about your daily life. How are you affected by products from trees and forests? Write an essay to a general audience sharing how tree and forest products touch your life, and why they are important to you. You may choose to consider one specific forest product, or generalize about a variety of products. (K-2nd graders may use any media for their "essay.")

WRITING PROMPT for Grades 6-12*

Imagine that you are in charge of taking care of Idaho's forests. What ideas do you have for keeping your forests healthy and productive so they can provide beauty, habitat, clean air and water, products and more? Write an essay to a general audience sharing your ideas about how and why you would manage Idaho's forests for the future.

*Teachers: Please revise the prompt as needed to best meet the needs of the grade level(s) you teach.

Grade levels and length	
9 th -12 th graders: Up to 500 words	6 th -8 th graders: Up to 350 words
3 rd -5 th graders: Up to 250 words	K-2 nd graders: May use any media

Scoring Criteria	Subcategories	Points
Creative thinking (25 points total)	Information shows individual thinking skills.	25
Content accuracy (35 points total)	Information clearly relates to the topic.	10
	Information is accurate and logical.	15
	Information provides supporting details and/or examples.	10
Clear writing including grammar, spelling and punctuation. (30 points total)	Grammar, spelling and punctuation are correct.	15
	Information is organized, neatly typed or written and has well constructed paragraphs.	15
Overall likeability (10 points)	Reader was engaged by the writing and wanted to continue reading the essay.	10
Total (100 points)		100