

FOREST PRODUCTS WEEK

ESSAY CONTEST

To celebrate *National Forest Products Week* (October 14-20, 2018) the **Idaho Forest Products Commission** sponsors a statewide essay contest. Encourage students to enter the contest to learn more about Idaho's forests, build vocabulary and work toward mastering Idaho Core Standards.

Cash prizes for the winning writers and their classrooms!

Who may enter? All K-12 students in Idaho are eligible for the contest.

What are the requirements?

- ✓ See next page for Background Statement, Writing Prompts & Scoring Criteria.
- ✓ Each essay must include student name, teacher name and email, grade, school name and town.
- ✓ 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. *Please include a list of all students who complete an essay, so we may provide a Certificate of Participation for every student.* Teachers with multiple sections of a class may send the top five essays per class section.

What are the prizes? Each winning essayist receives a certificate and a cash prize (K-2 \$25; 3rd-5th \$50; 6th-8th \$75; 9th-12th \$100). Their classroom receives \$100, and their teacher receives a voucher to attend a Project Learning Tree workshop, plus posters and other resources. There is a string attached: The winning essayist must help decide how the class spends its cash award! Honorable mentions are named at each level. *Every student receives a Certificate of Participation.*

When are the essays due? Essay submissions must be emailed or postmarked by 11/2/18.

How do I submit the essays? Send your essays (top five per class) to:

Via Email	Via Mail
plt@idahoforests.org (2 nd letter is an "l" as in "learning") In SUBJECT, include: Essay Contest, <i>Teacher Name, Grade</i>	IFPC Essay Contest 350 N 9 th St, #102 Boise ID 83702

What if I have questions?

Visit www.idahoforests.org/essay_contest.htm, email plt@idahoforests.org or call 208-334-4061.

Idaho Core Standards. Encourage students to access different types of informational texts and use evidence to support their reasoning. Researching and writing this essay provides an opportunity to work on vocabulary, syntax, and development and organization of ideas. Students may access links to a variety of informational texts at www.idahoforests.org/essay_contest.htm.

Idaho Forest Products Commission, 350 N 9th St., #102, 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; carbon storage; energy savings and numerous products for people. One of the best things about trees is that they are a renewable resource. When trees are harvested, 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. 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 forest product, or a variety of products. (K-2nd graders may use any media for their “essay.”)

WRITING PROMPT for Grades 6-12

Consider the merits of using wood versus other building materials. Write an essay to a general audience sharing your ideas, supported by your research, about whether using wood for building is a good choice environmentally and economically or not.

Grade levels and essay length guidelines	
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
Content accuracy (35 points total)	Clearly relates to the topic.	10
	Is accurate and logical	10
	Provides supporting details and/or examples. If applicable, sources are cited.	15
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
Originality (25 points total)	Shows individual thinking skills	25
Overall likeability (10 points)	Reader was engaged by the writing and wanted to continue reading the essay.	10
Total (100 points)		100



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