

Student Essay Contest

Dry spell or deluge?

We got rain! Are we out of the drought? Why or why not, and how should we change to adapt?

This year's essay theme is: *Evaluating desert drought conditions*

The Mojave Water Agency strongly advocates water conservation through education and outreach. One challenge we face is differing public opinion on the drought in California. Ever-changing state regulations continue to create a burden for water companies and their customers to further cut back on water usage. When shortening showers, removing grass, and turning off the faucet when brushing your teeth is not enough, what other things can you do to conserve water? Essays should include how the narrative on the drought shapes the public opinion on conservation and share some creative steps we can take to help conserve water in our home, schools, and businesses beyond traditional practices.

A winning essay will demonstrate creativity, be well-sourced, and provide key take-aways that readers can put into practice. Three finalists will be chosen to rework their essay into a speech that will be presented live to a panel of judges.

Contest Rules:

1. Open to high school students living in the Mojave Water Agency boundaries enrolled in grades 9-12 in public, private, or home school. (Past finalists are not eligible.)
2. All essays must be emailed to efratt@mojavewater.org by **5 p.m. on October 25, 2023**. Please submit in Word or pdf format. Make sure your name, contact information and school name are on the top of your essay.
3. The body of the completed essay must be between 550 and 900 words.
4. With the essay, you **must** fill out a [short on-line application](#) and submit a video with your name, city/town, school, grade and what you learned while writing your essay. (Cell phone video is fine.)
5. The top three finalists will be assigned a community mentor/coach to polish their presentation for a verbal presentation on **Thursday, January 4 at 5 p.m.** to a selection panel in front of a small audience, which may include family.
6. The essay contest winner must present his or her essay at the 2024 Innovators High Desert Water Summit on **February 9** at the High Desert Church campus in Victorville.
7. Essays will be judged on creativity, writing skill, and knowledge of water conservation practices and drought regulations.
8. The winner will receive a scholarship of \$3,000 and the remaining two finalists will each receive a scholarship of \$1,000.
9. The top three finalists must agree to participate in an MWA produced video.
10. All entries become the property of the Mojave Water Agency.

→[Click here to fill out the on-line application](#)←

Or visit: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2024MWAEssay>

Or scan the QR code:

