



STUDENT ESSAY CONTEST

INFLUENCING THE FUTURE OF
WATER CONSERVATION

**WIN UP TO 3K IN
SCHOLARSHIPS!**

550 – 900 WORDS

**FINALIST ESSAY
PRESENTATIONS**

DEADLINE SEPT. 29

**OPEN TO ALL
HIGH SCHOOL
STUDENTS**

IN THE MWA SERVICE AREA

MORE INFO



PUBLICINFORMATION@MOJAVEWATER.ORG

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STUDENT ESSAY CONTEST

INFLUENCING THE FUTURE OF WATER CONSERVATION

Water is the lifeblood of the High Desert that many people take for granted. As the Mojave region faces growing challenges from drought, climate change, and population growth, the need for bold, innovative conservation efforts has never been greater.

This year's essay theme is: **From Apathy to Action: How Can Youth Influence the Future of Water Conservation in the Mojave?**

The Mojave Water Agency invites high school aged students in our service area to explore the unique role young people can play in shifting public attitudes and driving meaningful change in how we value, use, and protect water. Why is it so hard to get people to care? What messages actually inspire action? And what can you, as a student, do to lead the way?

Your essay should address:

- The barriers that prevent people from caring about water conservation in the Mojave Desert;
- The power of visual, emotional or cultural communication to influence behavior;
- Specific actions youth can take to promote lasting water-wise habits in their communities.

Winning essays will demonstrate creativity, a clear understanding of local water challenges, and realistic, innovative strategies that Mojave Water Agency or other local leaders could consider putting 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 submitted via the Google Form by 5 p.m. on September 29, 2025. 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. To participate, you must fill out a short online application and submit your essay with a short 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 tentatively scheduled on Thursday, November 13 to a selection panel in front of a small audience, which may include family.
6. The essay contest winner must present the essay at the 2026 Innovators High Desert Water Summit in February. (Additional details to come.)
7. Essays will be judged on writing skill (quality, clarity, organizational structure and style), contextual knowledge about local water conservation, and the innovation and feasibility of the proposed solutions.
8. Use of artificial intelligence to produce essays is prohibited. All essays will be checked to ensure they are not a product of AI.
9. The winner will receive a scholarship of \$3,000, and the remaining two finalists will each receive a scholarship of \$1,000.
10. The top three finalists must agree to participate in a video produced by Mojave Water Agency.
11. All entries become the property of the Mojave Water Agency.

To apply, visit: <https://forms.gle/r5AUWbg4Sk3NWdUq8>

Or scan the QR code:

