



Society of Plastics Engineers

2023 "Wonders of Plastics" Essay Contest

The Society of Plastics Engineers (SPE) presents the 25th annual “Wonders of Plastics” essay contest. Open to all middle/junior high and high school students, the essay must be sponsored by a teacher and must meet certain requirements (see *Requirements for Submission*, p 2).

First prize \$250 (one winner in High School and Elementary Division) Second Prize \$125 (one winner in High School and Elementary Division) Topics to consider

Advantages of plastics in food packaging

Creative use of recycled plastics

How plastics benefit humankind

How plastics improve our lifestyle

Plastics in the environment

Plastics usefulness in society

What plastics has done for me

Why the bad reputation of plastics is wrong

All essay submissions must be received at the **SPE email address, listed below**, along with the entry form, by the announced deadline. Feb 28th 2023.

The winning entry for each participating local affiliation (Section) may be publicized in the Section’s Newsletter and awards will be presented at the Annual SPE Education night in April.

Entry forms may be copied, but each essay must be attached to an Entry form; essays will not be returned and become the property of SPE.

Submit your Essay and entry Form to:

**SPE Milwaukee Section at
milwaukee-spe@gmail.com**

Entry must be received by Feb 28th , 2023

REQUIREMENTS FOR SUBMISSION

General

Length: Between 500 and 1,000 words

Format: Typewritten in English on 8 ½ x 11 paper (for North America), title to appear as heading on each page; no name on any page except the entry

form that must accompany each essay; 1-inch margins minimum on all sides

Organization

The organization structure of the essay should be “logical,” including the following considerations:

Introduction:	Optional
Thesis:	Several sentences
Development:	This section should be several paragraphs and should discuss the theme, analyze it, feature informal research about the theme, etc.
Conclusion:	This section should be at least one paragraph in which the author summarizes the ideas presented in the essay

Mechanics

Spelling should be correct; syntax should be readable; punctuation should be conventional. Essay should be free of sentence fragments. Diction (word choice) should be appropriate to the subject and the writer’s understanding of the topic. Point of view should be appropriate to the topic/subject and remain constant and consistent. A mixture of first and third person is acceptable if it is appropriate to the voice of the essay. However, the use of second person (“you” either stated directly or implied) will change the “voice” of the essay in a manner damaging to its effectiveness. Footnotes and references must be included when necessary.

Judging

A panel consisting of SPE members and volunteers will judge essays. In order to be a finalist, the essay must meet all the conditions as stated in the organization and mechanics above, with only incidental errors in mechanics. It must meet the assigned minimum length and must be submitted following the prescribed format.

Title: _____

By: _____

type or
print

about the
author(s)
Name(s)

age _____

age _____

Grade in School

Address(es) _____

Phone Number(s) _____

E-mail(s) _____

about the school

School Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone/Fax _____

Teacher _____

Class _____

Submit essay and entry form to: SPE Milwaukee Section at Email –

milwaukeespe@gmail.com