

## Poster Contest Rules

- Posters should be no larger than 24 X 36 inches.
- Pictures or other materials may be mounted on the posters, if mounted securely. Only materials that are flat or create a two-dimensional effect may be used. **Mounted materials cannot stick out more than 1/8 of an inch from the paper.**
- Any coloring materials available to students and suitable for poster work may be used.
- Posters must be the **original work** of the individual student. Original work is created by the student and shows a fresh, new idea. Students should be made aware of **copyright protection**. (See Copyright section.) Hand drawn pictures are preferred over computer-generated drawings.
- Posters should be submitted **flat and not rolled**.
- **Do not** include any information on the front of the poster that can identify you (Picture of yourself, name, etc.) Remember, put this information on the **BACK** on the slip provided by the SWCD!

### Judging Criteria:

The NCASWCD has adopted a standard poster score sheet to be used at all contest levels. Posters will be judged on the following points (Refer to **Poster Pointers** and the score sheet for tips):

- Conservation Message 50%
- Visual Effectiveness 30%
- Universal Appeal 10%
- Originality 10%

### Infractions:

Points will be deducted for the following infractions:

- Copyright violation - 5 points
- Exceeding the size limit - 5 points

### Copyright:

Copyright is a protection by U.S. laws for the authors and creators of original work. A copyright protects the particular manner of expression of ideas, but not the ideas themselves.

Example: You can make a poster using cartoon characters that talk about soil and water conservation in comic-strip fashion if the ideas are yours (this main idea cannot be copyrighted). But if classmates recognize your cartoon characters as popular characters, then your work is copied from the original artists. Remember to use your imagination because your own ideas are the BEST!

### District Contest:

- According to the local District's guidelines, each class may submit winning posters from each of the grade levels 3, 4, 5 and 6.
- The District will select one winner from each grade level to compete in the Area Contest.

### What makes a good poster?

- A brief, catchy message; one theme that can be read in 10 seconds or less
- A slogan telling viewers to do something and making them want to do it
- Use of colors and white space to get and hold attention
- Letters large enough to be easily read and words separated enough to read them quickly
- Planning ahead! Don't wait until the last minute and rush through it- neatness counts!

### Avoid these poster faults:

- More than one theme
- Too busy -- too many and/or too scattered pictures or words

**For more information: 828.884.3230 or check out our website:  
<http://www.transylvaniacounty.org/soilwater.htm>**

# ESSAY CONTEST

The Essay Contest is sponsored by the N.C. Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts (NCASWCD), which also sets the rules.

## **Participant Eligibility:**

Open to 6th-grade students.

## **Contest Cycle:**

Runs concurrently with the school year and takes place in participating Districts.

**Contest Procedure:** District First Place winner in local contests will be eligible to enter the Area contest. Each Area First Place winner will be eligible to enter the State contest. Each contest coordinator shall see that contestants and judges have a copy of the rules and shall urge them to study these rules, especially the sections on content, specifications and judging criteria. All essays entered into District sponsored competitions become the property of the respective District. These entities are entitled to use these essays for promotion of the Conservation District essay program.

For clarification, the difference between an essay and a report, as applied to this contest, is as follows:

Essay - A short composition dealing with a single subject from a personal point of view; facts may be interwoven into the essay, which stimulates thinking.

Report - A formal presentation of facts in a report style.

## **Judging Criteria:**

The Association has adopted a standard score sheet to be used for all contest levels. Essays will be judged on content and writing skills as described on the score sheet.

- Essays must be the work of the individual student.
- Essays may be either handwritten or typed on the computer.

## **Specifications:**

Essays must:

- Bear the current title of the essay contest.
- Be limited to 300 – 500 words. All words will be counted to reach the limit.
- Be presented on standard 8 ½" X 11" paper.

- Be properly identified on the back using the following format:

Student's Name: Grade:

Student's Address:

Teacher's Name:

School:

County: District:

**Infractions:**

Points will be deducted for the following infractions:

- Incorrect Length 5 points
- Current title not on essay 5 points
- Wrong paper size 2 points

**Conservation District Contest:**

- Teachers will ask students to prepare an essay on the current topic.
- According to the local District's guidelines, each **class** will select **4** **essays** to represent the class at the District's Annual Essay Contest.
- The District will select one winner to compete in the Area contest.
- District contests may be conducted at any time during the school year provided that District winners are determined before March 1. The original copy of the winning essay from the District must be sent to the Area Chairman on or before March 7.
- Districts may present awards they deem appropriate.
- Each word is counted as a word regardless of number of letters in the word.

## ESSAY CONTEST

### N.C. ASSOCIATION OF SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

**CONTENT: 50 points**

knows subject matter; develops and follows theme; presents accurate facts: original approach to subject; stimulates thinking

**WRITING STYLE: 20 points**

innovative style (keeps your interest); correct use of grammar, spelling, punctuation; readability (clear message, easily understood by reader)

**ORGANIZATION: 20 points**

proper paragraph transitions; opening closing tie-in; sticks to theme

**NEATNESS: 10 points****SUBTOTAL:****INFRACTIONS:****PERFECT SCORE: 100 points****TOTAL:**

**INFRACTIONS: INCORRECT LENGTH: 5 POINTS CURRENT TITLE NOT USED: 5 POINTS INCORRECT PAPER SIZE: 2 POINTS**

(Adopted May 2004)

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For more information, call the Transylvania Soil & Water Conservation District at (828) 884-3230.

North Carolina Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts  
**PUBLIC SPEAKING CONTEST**



**JUDGE:** \_\_\_\_\_ **TITLE:** \_\_\_\_\_ **DATE:** \_\_\_\_\_ **GRADE:** 7 8

\*Students and judges should be informed of the judging criteria before the contest begins.

\*Perfect Score = 100 points (Total of CONTENT + SPEAKING SKILLS)

\*Infractions: Outside the 4-6 minute time limit: minus 5 points

Use of visual aids: minus 5 points

Gives personal identification: minus 5 points

\*A timekeeper will inform the judges of the contestants' official time.

CONTENT CRITERIA	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
<b>A. COMPREHENSIVE KNOWLEDGE OF SUBJECT (20 Points)</b> <i>Good choice of material, makes sense, factual, accurate, quotes are correct and appropriate, shows understanding of material, relevant to Soil and Water Conservation Contest theme</i>								
<b>B. ORGANIZATION (15 Points)</b> <i>Presented in meaningful order, shows continuity of ideas, uses orderly flow of thoughts, uses good transitions between thoughts</i>								
<b>C. ORIGINALITY (5) Points</b> <i>Creative approach and effective use of material</i>								
<b>D. SKILLFUL USE OF FACTS, EXAMPLES, DESCRIPTIONS AND ANALOGIES (10 Points)</b> <i>Elements of the speech flow together well and contribute to the quality of the presentation. Facts, examples, descriptions and analogies add to the quality of the presented message</i>								
<b>CONTENT SUB-TOTAL</b>								

6/2007 NCASWCD PUBLIC SPEAKING CONTEST

JUDGE: \_\_\_\_\_ TITLE: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE: \_\_\_\_\_ GRADE: 7 8

\*Students and judges should be informed of the judging criteria before the contest begins.  
 \*Perfect Score = 100 points (Total of CONTENT + SPEAKING SKILLS)

\*Infractions: Outside the 4-6 minute time limit: minus 5 points  
 Use of visual aids: minus 5 points  
 Gives personal identification: minus 5 points

\*A timekeeper will inform the judges of the contestants' official time.

SPEAKING SKILLS CRITERIA		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
<b>A. VOICE AND DICTION</b> <i>Quality and variety (not monotone), inflection, enunciation, pronunciation, proper emphasis, projection and control, appropriate volume</i>	(15 Points)								
<b>B. STYLE</b> <i>Rapport with the audience, word selection, no distracting vocal mannerisms, appealing presentation</i>	(20 Points)								
<b>C. BODY LANGUAGE</b> <i>Eye contact, posture and poise, hand gestures used with restraint and good taste</i>	(15 Points)								
SPEAKING SKILLS SUB-TOTAL									
STUDENT'S OFFICIAL TIME (must be within 4-6 minutes)									
FINAL SCORING SECTION									
CONTENT SUB-TOTAL									
+ SPEAKING SKILLS SUB-TOTAL									
= TOTAL									
- INFRACTIONS (if any, subtract points)									
= FINAL TOTAL									



**OUR GOAL:** North Carolina Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts sponsors a public speaking contest at District, Area and State levels in order to give seventh and eighth grade students an opportunity to gain knowledge and understanding of soil and water conservation while developing leadership and speaking skills which in turn foster self-confidence and personal growth.

**DO:**

- ☺ Become familiar with the judging criteria on the 'Public Speaking Contest' score sheet
- ☺ Memorize your speech. Use of note cards is acceptable for back up.
- ☺ Dress appropriately (no costumes, logos or anything that would identify your school, hometown or county).
- ☺ Arrive early so you can relax and become comfortable with the microphone and podium.
- ☺ Make eye contact with the audience during your speech.
- ☺ Speeches may be video taped at the state contest; and area and district contests may also be recorded for use in Soil and Water Conservation District educational programs. Your parent will be asked to sign a form giving permission for videotaping and/or photographing during the event.
- ☺ Be sure to stay in range of the podium microphone while making your speech.
- ☺ Contact your local SWCD office if you have any questions about participating in the speech contest.

**DON'T:**

- ☹ Don't go under or exceed the time limit of 4-6 minutes. If any speech is under 4 minutes or over 6 minutes, 5 points will be subtracted from the final score by the judges.
- ☹ Don't use visual aids. 5 points will be subtracted from the final score by the judges if visual aids are used. If you have questions about what constitutes a visual aid, please ask.
- ☹ Don't give personal information: 5 points will be subtracted from final score by the judges if personal information is given.
- ☹ Don't make physical contact with the judges and/or audience.