

Win Prizes totaling \$1,500 available for middle and high school students in the

SPE Wonders of Plastics 2012 International Essay Contest



The Mid-Michigan Section of the Society of Plastics Engineers is participating in the 2012 "Wonders of Plastics" International Essay Contest. Middle and high school students can win prizes totaling up to \$1,500 *in cash*. The Mid-Michigan Section winners receive \$500, \$250 and \$100 for the first, second and third place entries, respectively. The section's first place essay is then entered in SPE's International Contest where the student can win an additional \$1,000 with a \$1,000 honorarium for the student's school. The winning essay will be printed in SPE's magazine, **Plastics Engineering**. The 2011 Mid Michigan SPE "Wonders of Plastics" International Essay Contest was won by Emily Nichols of Heritage High School with her entry titled "Plastic Usefulness in American Society." Her essay can be seen at <http://www.midmichiganspe.org/essay.html>. The deadline for submitting this year's essay is **December 21, 2011** and should be submitted along with the entry form (over) to:

Mr. Todd Hogan

The Dow Chemical Company
Larkin 200, 1605 Joseph Drive, Midland, MI 48674
Tel. (989) 636-5303 or e-mail tahogan@dow.com

EXAMPLE TOPICS

Plastics in the environment
Creative use of recycled plastics
What plastics has done for me
How plastics improve lifestyle

Plastics usefulness in American society
How plastics benefit health and safety
Why the bad reputation of plastics is false
Advantages of plastics in food packaging

ESSAY REQUIREMENTS

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.

Deadline: December 21, 2011.

ORGANIZATION

The organizational structure of the essay will be logical, including the following considerations:

Introduction: (optional)

Thesis paragraph: several sentences

Development (body): this section will be several paragraphs and will discuss the theme, analyze it, feature informal research about the theme, etc.

Conclusion: this section will be at least one paragraph in length in which the author summarizes the ideas presented in the body of the essay

MECHANICS

Spelling will be correct; syntax will be readable; punctuation will be conventional. Essay will be free of sentence fragments. Diction (word choice) will be appropriate to the subject and show that the writer understands the topic. Point of view will be appropriate to the topic/subject and will 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 (either stated directly or implied) will change the voice of the essay in a manner damaging to its effectiveness.

JUDGING

A panel of 3 people 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.

Society of Plastics Engineers

Wonders of Plastics

2012 International Essay Contest



Title: _____

(type or print)

About the Author

Name: _____ Age: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

School: _____ Grade: _____

Address: _____

Phone/FAX: _____

Class: _____

Teacher: _____

Interest/Hobbies: _____

Submit to

Mid-Michigan Section SPE
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The Dow Chemical Company
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