



# ReNEW<sup>24</sup>

Reflective Essays on Nature, Earth and their Wonders

## ESSAY CONTEST

An annual essay contest open to all Delaware high schoolers, providing a platform for them to reflect on the unique role of youth on climate action, environmental injustice, and their sense of connectedness with the natural world.

### TOPICS

- Youth Empowerment in Climate Action
- Tackling Environmental Injustices
- Personal Connection with Nature

Maximum Word Count = 1500 words

### AWARDS



1st, 2nd, and 3rd, and 7 Honorable Mentions.  
Each of the top 10 will receive a cash prize.

- First Prize - \$2000
- Second Prize - \$1500
- Third Prize - \$1000
- 7 Honorable Mentions - \$500 each

### IMPORTANT DATES

- Students pre-register for the essay contest.  
**January 1, 2024**, registration opens.
- **Feb. 26, 2024**, is the open date for students to begin to submit essays.
- **March 11, 2024**, is the deadline for students to submit essays.
- Students shall send their essays to  
“[renew@delawareipl.org](mailto:renew@delawareipl.org)”
- Top essayists will receive awards at a ceremony on or around **Earth Day April 22, 2024**.

### JUDGING CRITERIA

**Clarity** – how clearly are reflections, arguments, opinions, evidence expressed?

**Passion** – how well does the student convey their personal passion for their topic?

**Attention to theme** – how closely does writing align with the chosen topic?

**Creativity** – to what extent does the writing display originality of thought, both in the content of the ideas expressed and the way they are presented?

**Persuasiveness/effectiveness** – with consideration for attention to theme, how impactful is the writing, in terms of its ability to provide a different perspective, inspire a broader or deeper understanding, and/or compel to action?



For more Information and questions email  
**[RENEW@delawareipl.org](mailto:RENEW@delawareipl.org)** or text or  
call Charanjeet Singh Minhas **302-359-2155**.

**[www.delawareipl.org](http://www.delawareipl.org)**

# ReNEW

## Names and Quotes from top Essayists 2022 and 2023

### 2022 WINNING ESSAYISTS

*In that moment, our message became clear. The youth of our state is not going anywhere. We will continue to advocate for change and challenge our politicians until we are old enough to fill their seats.*



**Julia Rial,**

**Sussex Academy**

**1st prize, Sussex County**

*Words will not stop the sea from swallowing us. Words will not go back and un-poison our bloodstream. We must have action. We must have justice, and until we do, the young people will not stop marching.*



**Isabella Anderson,**

**Caesar Rodney High School**

**1st prize, Kent County**

*These companies, while in the process of manufacturing, can pollute the air, soil, and water, but they aren't the ones being impacted by it.*



**Aanya Gupta,**

**Newark Charter High School**

**1st prize, New Castle County**

*It is the lawmaker's duty to speak on behalf of the people and for the benefit of the people, and if the voices of the people are loud enough, their echo will be heard in legislation hall.*



**Gabriel Fennemore,**

**Home Schooled**

**2nd prize, Kent County**

*Though the specific location may have different plants or animals or habitats, the most common feature of every natural place is the feeling that one experiences when you truly appreciate it for all its intricacies and simplicities.*



**Anaum Allimulla,**

**Newark Charter High School**

**2nd prize, New Castle County**

### 2023 WINNING ESSAYISTS

*In 2023, however, there is no excuse for perpetuating this cycle of planetary abuse short of greed and cruelty. The consequences are very real and manifest themselves in endless ways.*



**Raina Lakhani,**

**Caesar Rodney High School**

**1st prize statewide**

*I assure you, we will build up into a force strong enough to break down the wall that barricades us and find a way to protect the land we live on.*



**Sudipa Chowdhury,**

**Newark Charter High School**

**2nd prize statewide**

*...the work we do now as young people to inform ourselves and the people around us about climate change can create a ripple effect that may start as one small action, but will lead to greater impact that will ultimately shape the future of us...*



**Sidrishia Sarbajna,**

**Newark Charter High School**

**3rd prize statewide**

*We all need to put our pride aside and see nature as a place that tolerates us, not the other way around. It's our place to protect nature and I want to do it...*



**Ayomipo Adejo,**

**Newark Charter High School**

**Honorable Mention**

*The pond was an extension of my body, of my mind. My brain strung intricate webs connecting each organism to one another, each organism to me.*



**Jon Dong,**

**Tower Hill High School**

**Honorable Mention**