



West TN STEM Hub 2017 Essay Competition

Sponsored by the West TN STEM Hub and Buckman

Buckman

Science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) fields are of critical importance to the West Tennessee region. The economy of the region is largely dependent on industry, advances, and a skilled workforce in STEM. The West Tennessee STEM Hub in partnership with Buckman is hosting the third annual West Tennessee STEM Essay competition for all regional middle and high school students. The competition will provide a forum for students to share the impact of STEM on their lives and community, and it will promote greater regional awareness of the need for more students to pursue STEM professions.

WHO — All West TN region **middle school and high school students** living in one of the following counties: Benton, Carroll, Chester, Crockett, Decatur, Dyer, Fayette, Gibson, Hardeman, Hardin, Haywood, Henderson, Henry, Lake, Lauderdale, Madison, McNairy, Obion, Shelby, Tipton, Weakley. New to this year's competition, we will have only one region with separate brackets for middle and high school students. Middle school includes grades 6, 7, and 8; high school includes grades 9 through 12.

WHAT — Prepare and submit a **1,200 – 1,500 word** essay on the following topic:

STEM Trends, Technologies & Innovations

Your essay should demonstrate effort in identifying and researching a current STEM trend, technology or innovation. Explain how this advancement was developed, the problem or challenge it addresses, and the outlook for the future. Be creative and pick a topic that really interests you. Any connection to STEM disciplines is acceptable.

Students should relate the topic to their personal experience in addition to providing evidence from research to support their statements. Participants should pay special attention to the rubric that is included in this announcement, as it will be used by judges in scoring the essays.

WHEN — Essays must be submitted via email no later than **5:00 pm CST on Friday, April 28, 2017** Aaliyah Jatta at ajjatta@memphis.edu. The winners will be announced on Monday, May 15th.

WHY — In addition to raising awareness of the impact of STEM across West TN, all winning entries will be published on a special page of the West Tennessee STEM Hub website, www.westtnstem.org. Award categories are as follows:

Middle School Competition

1st Place - \$300

2nd Place - \$200

3rd Place - \$100

Honorable Mention - \$50

High School Competition

1st Place - \$300

2nd Place - \$200

3rd Place - \$100

Honorable Mention - \$50

ESSAY SCORING RUBRIC

| Criteria | Maximum Points Awarded |
|---|------------------------|
| Cover page* includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Essay title (not the same as the essay prompt) <input type="checkbox"/> Student's name <input type="checkbox"/> Student's grade <input type="checkbox"/> Name of School <input type="checkbox"/> County <input type="checkbox"/> Date <input type="checkbox"/> Word count *See http://westtnstem.org/students/k12 for a template. | 10 |
| Essay is within 1,200 – 1,500 word limit | 10 |
| Essay is written in a clear and coherent manner, with a thesis statement guiding the content | 20 |
| Content clearly explains the trend, advancement or innovations and where it is currently applicable | 20 |
| At least three examples from research are provided to support the thesis statement | 15 |
| Sources of research are properly cited within the essay in MLA format | 10 |
| Essay clearly outlines the importance of STEM innovations in solving future challenges | 15 |

For more information, please visit the West TN STEM Hub website:

<http://westtnstem.org/students/k12>

Thank you for your interest in the West TN STEM Hub Essay Competition, good luck!