



Jenny Ryals
P.O. Box 193
Poplarville, MS 39470
(601) 403-8771
mswomenforag.essaycontest@gmail.com

Mississippi Women for Agriculture High School Essay Contest

In order to generate interest, promote understanding, and foster support for agriculture, Mississippi's number one industry, as well as encourage and support students as they pursue higher education and vocational training, Mississippi Women for Agriculture is sponsoring a high school essay contest. Guidelines and information are included below:

1. The contest is open to Mississippi students, **male or female**, who are enrolled in public, private, parochial, or home school programs **grades 9-12** for the 2018-2019 school year.
2. The theme of the essay is "**The Benefits of Local Foods.**"
3. The deadline for electronic submission shall be **midnight Thursday, January 31, 2019**. If an entry is submitted by mail, it should be postmarked no later than Monday, January 28, 2019. Please send all entries to the address and email address listed at the top of the page.
4. The body of the essay should be **4-6 pages** in length, typed in 12 point Times New Roman font, double spaced, with 1" side margins and 1 ½ " margins top and bottom. Each page shall be numbered.
5. The body of the essay shall not contain the student's name.
6. Each entry shall include a **cover page** which contains the following:
 - a. Name
 - b. Address
 - c. Contact Info
 - d. Date of birth
 - e. School affiliation
 - f. Grade
 - g. Short biography
7. **Criteria for judging** the essay entries will be as follows:
 - a. **Content: 40%** demonstrating understanding of subject matter, relevance, and evidence of research of the topic
 - b. **Clarity: 30%** clear writing style and proper spelling, punctuation, and grammar
 - c. **Creativity: 30%** original, imaginative, and thoughtful material
8. All material that is not original must be set in quotes, foot-noted, and attributed to the original source.
9. Winners and winning essays will be posted on the MWA website.
10. Winners will be recognized at the 2019 Mississippi Women for Agriculture Annual Conference.
11. Awards shall be as follows:
 - a. **FIRST PRIZE: \$500 Scholarship**
 - b. **SECOND PRIZE: \$300 Scholarship**
 - c. **THIRD PRIZE: \$200 Scholarship**

The essay winner will be invited to come and read their essay at the MWA Annual Conference. Their essay along with a picture of the student shall be published on MWA website, as well as other MSU and local outlets. A signed release form will be needed before anything will go public.

Mississippi Women for Agriculture is an equal opportunity association. While historically this association has been predominantly for women, we do not discriminate against anyone who wants to participate regardless of race, color, ethnicity, sex, pregnancy, religion, national origin, disability, age, sexual orientation, genetic information, status as a U.S. veteran, or any other status protected by applicable law.