

Buckman

West TN STEM Hub 2019 Essay Competition

Sponsored by Buckman and the West TN STEM Hub

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 fourth 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. There are 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:

Today's Challenges, Tomorrow's STEM Solutions

Your essay should focus on identifying a challenge in our society today and how STEM-based solutions may provide the answers 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 26, 2019** to Alia Burrows at burrows1@memphis.edu (middle school entries) and Aaliyah Jatta at ajjatta@memphis.edu (high school entries). The winners will be announced on Tuesday, May 14th.

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:



Buckman

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">• Essay title (not the same as the essay prompt)• Student's name• Student's grade• Name of School• County• Date• 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!

