

2017 Delaware Farm Bureau Ag in the Classroom Essay Contest Middle School Teacher Instructions Packet

Thank you for your interest in participating in the Delaware Farm Bureau Ag in the Classroom Essay Contest. We appreciate you using this as a teaching tool in your classroom and forming a greater partnership with the Delaware Farm Bureau.

How to enter: Using the rubric included in this packet, submit the **top three essays** along with the rubrics and entry forms from each participating class. Submit essays to Delaware Farm Bureau, c/o Ag in the Classroom Essay Contest, 3457 S. DuPont Hwy, Camden, DE 19934. If you have any questions, contact Heather Kline at heather.kline@defb.org or (302) 697-3183. Essays **MUST** be postmarked by **October 31, 2017**.

Topic: Careers in Delaware Agriculture

Prompt: Agriculture is Delaware's number one industry, supporting many jobs within the state. In a minimum of 500 words, identify jobs of interest in Delaware agriculture, describe your favorite and why it is important to Delaware's agriculture.

Teacher's checklist for turning in essays

_____ Essays should meet the criteria/instructions on the official guidelines on page 3.

_____ Top three essays, rubrics and entry forms should be submitted to the Delaware Farm Bureau.



2017 Ag in the Classroom Essay Contest

This year's topic is **Careers in Delaware Agriculture**

Questions to answer:

1. What kind of jobs can you find in Delaware Agriculture?
2. Which one is your favorite and why?
3. Why is the career you chose important to Delaware's agriculture?

NEW THIS YEAR!

9th and 10th grades are now eligible to participate!

Guidelines

- The student must be enrolled in 6-7 or 9-10 grades in Delaware in the 2017-2018 academic year.
- The essay **must be** typed, double spaced, 12 point font, 1-inch margins
- Must be a **minimum length** of 500 words for 6-7 grades or 1,000 words for 9-10 grades.
- The essay **must be** accompanied by the official title sheet.
- Teachers should select the **top three student essays**, using the rubric provided in teacher's packet, from each participating class to be submitted to the Delaware Farm Bureau. *Note: If the winning teacher has more than one of the winning students, only one \$200 Staples gift card will be awarded.*

Prizes

First Place Essay	\$300 and present essay at DEFB Annual Banquet in November
Second Place Essay	\$200
Third Place Essay	\$100
Winning Teacher(s)	\$200 Staples Gift Card

Essays must be postmarked by October 31, 2017

For more information or for a teacher's packet, call Heather at (302) 697-3183, or email heather.kline@defb.org or visit www.defb.org/promotion-and-education.html

2017 Delaware Farm Bureau Ag in the Classroom Essay Contest

Official Guidelines

(6th and 7th grades)

Topic: Careers in Delaware Agriculture

Prompt: Agriculture is Delaware's number one industry, supporting many jobs within the state. In a minimum of 500 words, identify jobs of interest in Delaware agriculture, describe your favorite and why it is important to Delaware's agriculture.

Questions to answer:

1. What kind of jobs can you find in Delaware Agriculture?
2. Which one is your favorite and why?
3. Why is the career you chose important to Delaware's agriculture?

Bibliography

- Cite credible resources such as universities and publications. (*Wikipedia does not count.*)
- Include resources such as interviews with local growers (Farm name, grower's name)
- Bibliography **MUST** be in MLA format.

Guidelines

- The student **must be** enrolled in 6th or 7th grade in Delaware in the 2017-2018 academic year.
- The essay **must be** typed, double spaced, 12 point font, 1-inch margins, and **minimum of** 500 words in length.
- The essay **must be** accompanied by the official title sheet.
- Teachers should select the **top three student essays**, using the provided rubric, from each participating class to be submitted to the Delaware Farm Bureau. *Note: If the winning teacher has more than one of the winning students, only one \$200 Staples gift card will be awarded.*
- Essays **MUST** be postmarked by **October 31, 2017**. Late entries will not be accepted.

Additional Resources

- My Little Ag Me game <http://www.myamericanfarm.org/classroom/games>
- Delaware Department of Agriculture <http://dda.delaware.gov/>
- American Farm Bureau Foundation for Agriculture <http://www.agfoundation.org/>

Student Name: _____

School: _____ Grade: _____

Teacher: _____

DIRECTIONS: This form is designed to help you evaluate informative writing assignments. Read the statements below. Then indicate the number from the following scale that reflects your assessment of the student's work.

Traits	4	3	2	1
Focus & Details	There is one clear, well focused topic. Main ideas are clear and are well supported by detailed and accurate information.	There is one clear, well focused topic. Main ideas are clear but are not well supported by detailed information.	There is one topic. Main ideas are somewhat clear.	The topic and main ideas are not clear.
Organization	The introduction is inviting, states the main topic, and provides an overview of the paper. Information is relevant and presented in a logical order. The conclusion is strong.	The introduction states the main topic and provides an overview of the paper. A conclusion is included.	The introduction states the main topic. A conclusion is included.	There is no clear introduction, structure, or conclusion.
Voice	The author's purpose of writing is very clear, and there is strong evidence of attention to audience. The author's extensive knowledge and/or experience with the topic is/are evident.	The author's purpose of writing is somewhat clear, and there is some evidence of attention to audience. The author's knowledge and/or experience with the topic is/are evident.	The author's purpose of writing is somewhat clear, and there is evidence of attention to audience. The author's knowledge and/or experience with the topic is/are limited.	The author's purpose of writing is unclear.
Word Choice	The author uses vivid words and phrases. The choice and placement of words seems accurate, natural, and not forced.	The author uses vivid words and phrases. The choice and placement of words is inaccurate at times and/or seems overdone.	The author uses words that communicate clearly, but the writing lacks variety.	The writer uses a limited vocabulary. Jargon or clichés may be present and detract from the meaning.
Sentence Structure, Grammar, Mechanics, & Spelling	All sentences are well constructed and have varied structure and length. The author makes no errors in grammar, mechanics, and/or spelling.	Most sentences are well constructed and have varied structure and length. The author makes a few errors in grammar, mechanics, and/or spelling, but they do not interfere with understanding.	Most sentences are well constructed, but they have a similar structure and/or length. The author makes several errors in grammar, mechanics, and/or spelling that interfere with understanding.	Sentences sound awkward, are distractingly repetitive, or are difficult to understand. The author makes numerous errors in grammar, mechanics, and/or spelling that interfere with understanding.

2017 Delaware Farm Bureau Ag in the Classroom Essay Contest (Grades 6 and 7) Official Title Sheet

Topic: Careers in Delaware Agriculture

Prompt: Agriculture is Delaware's number one industry, supporting many jobs within the state. In a minimum of 500 words, identify jobs of interest in Delaware agriculture, describe your favorite and why it is important to Delaware's agriculture.

Student's Name _____

Name student is called by _____ Grade level _____

Mailing Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Parent's/Guardian's Names _____

Name of School _____

Name of Teacher _____ Phone _____

We hereby certify that this essay was written by the student whose name appears above.

Date

Parent or Guardian Signature

Delaware Farm Bureau use only

I hereby certify this scoring to be true and correct to the best of my knowledge. (Please initial next to your score.)

	Name	Score	Initials
Judge #1	_____	_____	_____
Judge #2	_____	_____	_____
Judge #3	_____	_____	_____