

**THE WEST FOUNDATION  
PRIZE IN COMMUNITY EDUCATION  
ESSAY CONTEST 2018  
REQUIREMENTS AND GUIDELINES**

**AWARDS:**

\*First Prize - \$2,000      \*Honorable Mention(s) - \$250

**ELIGIBILITY:**

Currently registered undergraduates and high school seniors at an accredited school, college, or university in the United States.

**SUGGESTED ESSAY TOPICS:**

Clearly articulate a complete understanding of STEM and how it impacts the world, locally and globally.

What is STEM?

- How does art change STEM?
- How does STEM, as a whole or in part, impact society?
- Has it impacted your community and/or society negatively or positively?
- How is majoring in a STEM program different than other majors in the current job market?
- How can you use STEM to improve communities?
- How would you initiate your idea and ensure the community is involved?

These are only suggestions as students may write about any topic they wish that includes STEM and its impact on society. *SEE ADDITIONAL PAGE FOR MORE POTENTIAL IDEAS*

**WHAT THE COMMITTEE READERS LOOK FOR - Essay Evaluation includes but not limited to:**

- Essay submission as PDF in APA paper style – See Microsoft [www.instructables.com](http://www.instructables.com) if needed
- Clear articulation and a genuine understanding of STEM.
- Adherence to guidelines and carefully proofread essays.
- Observation of rules for Standard English usage (grammar, punctuation, mechanics) in writing.
- Thoroughly thought-out, tightly focused essays.
- Originality and imagination.
- An eloquence of writing style.
- Intensity and unity in the essay.
- All decisions are final

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**ESSAY FORMAT:**

In 1,000 to 2,000 words, you are encouraged to raise questions, single out issues, and provide solutions.

Essays may be written in the formal or informal voice, but most importantly, individual expression should be evident.

The essay should be developed from your point of view and may take the form of an analysis that is biographical, historical, literary, philosophical, psychological, sociological, or theological.

The essay must be the original, unpublished work of one student. Only one essay per student per year may be submitted. All essays must have a title. All essays must be written in English.

The essay should be titled and typed in a 12-point easily readable font (such as Times New Roman). The pages should be numbered and formatted with 1” margins and double spacing.

The essay must include References (See APA Style).

Submissions will be judged anonymously. **Hence, no name or identifying references (i.e. your name, school, or professor) should appear on the title page or in the essay.**

**ALL essays MUST be verified by the online deadline of April 15, 2018, at 11:59 pm EST in order to be judged. Late submissions will be disqualified.**

Please submit thought-provoking, well-written essays that fall within the contest guidelines.

**SUBMISSION OF MATERIALS**

Entries must be submitted via email to [fmacon@bwestfoundation.org](mailto:fmacon@bwestfoundation.org)

Essays must be uploaded as a PDF (.pdf).

Education enrollment with recent grades must be uploaded as a PDF file.

All essays must be submitted by April 15, 2018, at 11:59 pm EST.

**NO PAPER OR HARD-COPY SUBMISSIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED.**

**Contest Online Deadline: April 15, 2018, by 11:59 PM EST**

*The West Foundation reserves the right to publish the winning essays, in whole or in part.*

*These essays may not be published elsewhere without written permission from the Foundation.*

*Winners must submit a short bio along with a picture for the West Foundation website to receive winnings.*

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**POTENTIAL IDEAS FOR ESSAY CONSIDERATION**

- 1) Research communities around the world, including your own that is or could be impacted by STEM.
- 2) Speak with residents or research material (citing sources). This may require research, such as statistical data and impact studies.

Some very important questions you may want to research or ask a resident:

- What type of opportunity can STEM provide?
- Are there any STEM programs in your school community?
- What are majors associated with STEM and STEAM?
- What career opportunities are associated with STEM or STEAM?
- How can STEM and/or STEAM help the neighborhood?
- What is the average salary for STEM or STEAM positions?

Remember, these are just some ideas for thought. Most importantly, describe what you know or learn about STEM and how it impacts the quality of life of the world and how you could use that knowledge to improve your community.

**GOOD LUCK TO EVERYONE!**