



Employing Solar to Teach Persuasive Writing

Program Overview

The Solar Foundation for Schools has created coursework that develops critical thinking skills and persuasive writing competency for 7th to 12th grade students. Teachers can easily incorporate this coursework into their present curriculum with minimal effort while meeting several Common Core State Standards (CCSS) and 1997 Standards for the English Language Arts.

The instructional materials include grade-appropriate essay prompts on the topic: "Why do we want solar at our school?" Responding to this question will not only be fun and engaging, it will give students the opportunity to formulate a written argument that is academically rigorous and highly relevant to developing 21st century skills. The materials contain a detailed review of the relevant CCSS and corresponding 1997 California standards, CCSS compliant grading rubrics, and a list of vetted website source content links as well as a solar glossary for teacher and student use.

Teachers will also have the option to enter their students' essays into an essay contest sponsored by the Foundation. Essays will be judged by a blue ribbon panel of teachers and administrators. Awards will be presented for both the top performing students and class in each grade.

Contest Key Dates

- ◆ February 1, 2013 – March 8, 2013 (New Date): Teachers submit Application to Participate
- ◆ March 15, 2013 – March 31, 2013: Teachers submit entries
- ◆ April 1, 2013 – April 26, 2013: Judges review entries
- ◆ April 30, 2013: The Foundation announces winners

Contest Awards

- ◆ First Place Student (10th - 12th): \$500
- ◆ First Place Student (7th - 9th): \$250
- ◆ Second Place Student: \$75
- ◆ Third Place Student: \$50
- ◆ Five Honorable Mention Students: \$25 (each)
- ◆ First Place Class (Teacher/Principal): \$500 (each)

For More Information

If your district, school, or class would like to learn more, we welcome hearing from you. Program materials are also downloadable from our website.

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