



Society of Plastics Engineers - Cleveland

## 2008 "Wonders of Plastics" Essay Contest

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Dear Sir/Madam,

We would like to inform you of an upcoming essay contest sponsored by the Society of Plastics Engineers (SPE) - Cleveland Section. We ask your help in forwarding this information to your fellow Science and English teachers.

We invite you and your students to participate in this annual event that will run from **now through January 11, 2008**. Essays must be postmarked no later than January 11, 2008. The topic of the essay should be related to **PLASTICS**. A complete set of contest rules is enclosed. Please read these rules so you can give direction to your students on content, grammar, and overall presentation. It is very important to include a bibliography of references used. In the past, teachers have made the essay a class assignment, and maybe you can do so too.

Teachers, please review the essays and submit your **TOP THREE ESSAYS (per class) ONLY**. Each of these top three students will receive a **FREE T-SHIRT** for his/her effort and participation from the Society of Plastics Engineer. In order to facilitate the ordering process, we request that students include their size on the application. Please paper clip the individual student's application form and essay together.

In addition, the Society of Plastics Engineers – Cleveland section will offer a \$250 cash prize to the first place winner. Cash prizes will also be given to 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup>, honorable mention winners and their respective schools. Certificates will also be awarded to the winners. The local first place essay will be sent to the National Society of Plastics Engineers Essay Contest held in March 2008, where it will compete for a \$1,000 first place prize for the student, and a \$1,000 prize for the school. The local awards will be given at the SPE-Cleveland's Annual Awards Night held in April-May, 2008 **and will be publicized in their respective local newspaper.**

We look forward to your support in the Cleveland SPE Essay Contest and in Plastics awareness! Please feel free to contact Cheng Xiong at 440-454-1806 for any questions or comments.

Thanks again for the support,

Cheng Xiong  
Education Committee Chairperson

More information about this can be found at:  
<http://www.4spe.org/awards/essaycontest.php>

You can also find us online at: [www.4spe.org](http://www.4spe.org)



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## 2008 "Wonders of Plastics" Essay Contest

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The Society of Plastics Engineers (SPE) presents the 15th annual "Wonders of Plastics" essay contest. Open to all middle/junior high and high school students, the essay must be sponsored by a teacher and must meet certain requirements (see *Requirements for Submission*).

### Topics to consider

Advantages of plastics in food packaging  
Creative use of recycled plastics  
How plastics benefit humankind  
How plastics improve our lifestyle

Plastics in the environment  
Plastics usefulness in society  
What plastics has done for me  
Why the bad reputation of plastics is wrong

All essay submissions must be received at the SPE Section address, listed below, along with the entry form, by the announced deadline.

The winning entry for each participating local affiliation (Section) will be publicized in the Section's Newsletter. In addition, the winning essay for each Section will be forwarded to SPE Headquarters for additional publicity and inclusion in the International Essay Contest. The International Essay Contest winner will receive a plaque and \$1000 honorarium. An additional \$1000 will be given to the winner's school.

Entry forms may be copied, but each essay must be attached to a form; essays will not be returned and become the property of SPE. Essays may be co-authored.

### Submit your Essay to:

#### SPE Cleveland Section

Attn: Cheng Xiong

4191 Santina Way

Lorain, OH 44053

Tel: 440-454-1806

Email: [SPEclevelandED@gmail.com](mailto:SPEclevelandED@gmail.com)

Entry must be **POSTMARKED** by **January 11, 2008!**

## REQUIREMENTS FOR SUBMISSION

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### **General**

- Length: Between 500 and 1,000 words
- Format: Typewritten in English on 8 ½ x 11 paper (for North America), title to appear as heading on each page; no name on any page except the entry form that must accompany each essay; 1-inch margins minimum on all sides

### **Organization**

The organization structure of the essay will be “logical,” including the following considerations:

- Introduction: Optional
- Thesis: Several sentences
- Development: This section will be several paragraphs and will discuss the theme, analyze it, feature informal research about the theme, etc.
- Conclusion: This section will be at least one paragraph in which the author summarizes the ideas presented in the essay

### **Mechanics**

Spelling will be correct; syntax will be readable; punctuation will be conventional. Essay will be free of sentence fragments. Diction (word choice) will be appropriate to the subject and the writer’s understanding of the topic. Point of view will be appropriate to the topic/subject and will remain constant and consistent. A mixture of first and third person is acceptable if it is appropriate to the voice of the essay, however, the use of second person (“you” either stated directly or implied) will change the “voice” of the essay in a manner damaging to its effectiveness.

### **Judging**

A panel consisting of SPE members, an editor, and a science teacher will judge essays. In order to be a finalist, the essay must meet all the conditions as stated in the organization and mechanics above, with only incidental errors in mechanics. It must meet the assigned minimum length and must be submitted following the prescribed format.

# ENTRY FORM

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Title: \_\_\_\_\_

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Type or print

***About the author(s)***

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_

Address(es) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Phone number(s) \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail(s) \_\_\_\_\_

School \_\_\_\_\_ Grade \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Phone/fax \_\_\_\_\_

Class \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher \_\_\_\_\_

Interest/hobbies \_\_\_\_\_

Please indicate T-shirt Size(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Local Newspaper(s) \_\_\_\_\_

**Submit your Essay(s) to:**

**SPE Cleveland Section**

Attn: Cheng Xiong

4191 Santina Way

Lorain, OH 44053

**Tel:** 440-454-1806

**Email:** SPEClevelandED@gmail.com

**Entry must be POSTMARKED by January 11, 2008!**