

Essay

<http://www.fromthebowseat.org/rules.php>

When writing about plastic pollution, we encourage you to follow one of two paths. First, if you like to dig into research and expose the facts, **write an analytical essay** about this pressing issue. If, however, you want to **write a more personal narrative** about your connection to the oceans, we encourage you to explore nature writing! Nature writing is a wonderful way to combine your personal narrative with scientific data.

Basic Rules

The contest runs through June 15, 2014, and is open to students who are in grades 9 through 12 as of September 2013. Essays can be submitted by individuals or by groups of two students. If you elect to write your essay with a friend, note that the awarded prize money will be split between the group members. From the Bow Seat reserves the right to use winning essays on social media.

Essays must be **5-8 pages double-spaced in 12-point Times font** and must include citations and bibliography (see "Source Material" below). The bibliography is not included in the page count. Essays must be the original work of the student(s) and answer the posed questions.

Source Material

All essays must have a minimum of five sources. These should adhere to the following guidelines:

A maximum of three sources can stem from the list provided in the "Inspiration" section.

Wikipedia is not considered a source.

Interviews of experts in the field are considered sources.

Essays must include at least three cited quotations.

MLA Citation Style

Parenthetical sources, not footnotes

Bibliography at the end of the essay

Finalist essays will be checked for proper sourcing and originality. All work must be original or cited and in the case of plagiarism, the entry will be disqualified.

Submission Guidelines

All students must first register online. Essay submissions will NOT be accepted without registration. After registering, students should send their essay (saved as a Microsoft Word document) to contest@fromthebowseat.org.