



RULES FOR THE 2011/2012  
HINDS COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT  
ESSAY CONTEST

Open to any 7th - 12th grade student in Hinds County.

- SUBJECT:** The theme for the contest this year, as chosen by the national and state conservation associations, is “SOIL TO SPOON”. The theme emphasizes **-(essay ideas)** – the importance of understanding where the food comes from that we eat each day. You see a wide variety of products in your local grocery store. What is the connection to the soil you walk on each day? (The importance of soil as it relates to our food supply) Additional information on the theme and tips to remember on composing an essay can be viewed on the National Association of Conservation Districts website at: <http://www.nacdnet.org/stewardship&education/> Other websites that contain useful information include:  
Ag in the Classroom- <http://www.agclassroom.org/>  
4-H Virtual Farm- <http://www.sites.ext.vt.edu/virtualfarm/>

The participant should make sure his/her essay relates conservation to the theme.

**FORMAT AND STYLE:** No less than 300 words and no more than 500 words. Any legible form is acceptable- printed, handwritten, etc. Essays should be printed/written on one side of the paper only. List the following on a cover sheet in this order:

- First Name, Last Name
- Email address:
- Address (street, city, state and zip code)
- Phone:
- Parent or guardian name:
- School:                      Grade:                      Age:
- Teacher's name (educator responsible for the contest) Teacher's E-mail address:
- Hinds County Soil & Water Conservation District
- \*List references on a sheet at the end of the essay.

\*\*Social Security numbers will be needed for students who advance to the area and state competition.

**DUE DATE:**

Essays must be in our office by **on or before the deadline date of 4:30 p.m. Friday, December 9<sup>th</sup>, 2011.** Entries may be sent or delivered to the Hinds County Soil and Water Conservation District. (322 New Market Drive, Jackson, Ms 39209) Entries may be turned in before the deadline date. If mailed do not fold or roll.\*\* ***If you can't bring the essays to our office, if our schedule permits, an office employee will pick up the essays. Call (601-965-5682 Ext. 3 or email [lynn.porter@ms.nacdnet.net](mailto:lynn.porter@ms.nacdnet.net) ) I have to receive notification by Friday, December 2<sup>nd</sup> if you would like us to pick up your essays.***

**AWARDS:**

Make sure to turn in all your entries; the judges will judge the essays at the class, school and county level. Certificates will be given to the top three winners from each grade at each school. School winners will receive certificates. County winners will be judged in the following grade categories 7th-8th, 9th-10th, and 11th-12th grades to stay uniform with the area and state contests. County winners will receive cash awards and certificates. **The award monies are:**

- First Place Winner-----\$40**
- Second Place Winner-----\$30**
- Third Place Winner-----\$20**

3. Teachers in any subject matter area may submit student essays. The county winners will then be notified by mail and the First, Second and Third place awards will be announced at the Hinds County Soil and Water Conservation District's Annual Poster & Essay Reception to be held April 10, 2012. All participants, parents and teachers are welcome to attend the reception.