



Founded 1972

Innovate and Aggregate! **IJAS Essay Contest 2024**

A. Theme and Prompts: The focus of the essay may be any topic that answers the prompt and is related to the theme.

There is one overarching theme and two different prompts for 2024.

If you are in **Middle School (7th and 8th)**, your corresponding prompt is:

- 1) Describe a historic agricultural innovation and develop a technology or device capable of optimizing it.
- OR 2) Discuss what benefits/drawbacks your technology/device has in modern agriculture.

If you are in **High School (9th, 10th, 11th, and 12th)**, your corresponding prompt is:

- 1) Describe a historic agricultural disaster and develop a technology or device capable of preventing it.
- OR 2) Detail how you would go about aggregating this innovation into modern agriculture as well"

Make sure that your response is narrow enough to write a proper essay– do not try to overview every topic that relates to the theme and prompt.

B. Structure of the essay:

- (1) The author must follow the essay theme of *"Innovate and Aggregate"* and their corresponding prompt.
- (2) The author must follow the formal APA essay style. The student authors will include in-text citations and a complete list of references used also following APA format. References are to be listed at the end of the essay on a separate page. We encourage participants to consult their English teachers for guidance. Papers will be judged not only on scientific merit, but also on writing style.
- (3) The author should read the section detailing the essay contest in the [IJAS Policy and Procedure Manual](#).
- (4) The essay must be original and follow the guidelines for student essays such as the Background Research essays as established in the [IJAS Policy & Procedure Manual](#).
- (5) The chosen topic is open to interpretation. The author is encouraged to interpret the theme and prompt of the essay in a creative, innovative way.
- (6) The student is the only person allowed to write and submit the essay - parents, siblings, friends, or teachers are not permitted to submit essays on behalf of the student.

C. Essay Submission Timeline (students must follow all regional submission guidelines if applicable):

- (1) Students should submit the preliminary google form with their name, school name, sponsor, and IJAS region by **March 16, 2024**.
- (2) After students submit the google form, we will contact the sponsors and regional chairs for submission of papers. Regional chairs should choose roughly 2-3 essays to submit per region. All work must be the original work of the student writer and must not be plagiarized. Sponsors are encouraged to read through their students' work to check for plagiarism prior to submitting entries. The deadline for sponsors and regional chairs to submit their students' papers is **March 30th, 2024**.
- (3) Essay finalists will be asked to give an oral presentation at the State Exposition to the IJAS Student Board on **Friday morning, May 3rd, 2024**. Finalists' presentations should effectively convey the student's opinion on how his/her topic is significant. Additionally, finalists should present and reference research information, and conclude with key points of discussion that summarizes the author's supposition or thesis. **The oral presentation will be limited to ten minutes.**

D. State Level Awards:

All finalists selected to present their essay at STATE will receive a monetary award. Winners will be announced at the IJAS Banquet Friday evening and at the IJAS Awards Ceremony Saturday afternoon.

The student's name, school, grade level, school address, school telephone number, home address, home telephone number, region number, sponsor name and phone number, and sponsor's signature must be included on the cover page. The format of cover page can be found in the [IJAS Policy and Procedure Manual](#).

Students, preliminary entries must be received by **March 16, 2024 in order to be considered.**

Google Entry Form: [Click Here!](#)

If you have any questions, please contact Aditya Sundar (IJAS Essay Chair) at adityasundar06@gmail.com.