



Society of Plastics Engineers

## 2008 "Wonders of Plastics" Essay Contest

---

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*, p 2).

### 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 from Georgia, Alabama, and part of South Carolina\* must be received by the Essay Contest Coordinator of the SPE Southern Section, listed below, along with the entry form, by December 14, 2007. The local section will award \$500, 300, and 200 to the best three essays, respectively, and each of the three winners' schools will receive an honorarium plaque. The first-place essay will be published in the SPE Southern Section newsletter and featured on the section's website. In addition, the first-place essay will be forwarded to the SPE Headquarter 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 Section: Southern Section  
Contact: Dr. Dong Yao  
Address: The School of Polymer, Textile & Fiber Engineering  
Georgia Institute of Technology  
801 Ferst Drive  
Atlanta, GA 30332-0295  
Phone: (404) 894-9076; Fax: (404) 894-8780  
Email: dong.yao@ptfe.gatech.edu

**Entry must be received by Friday, December 14, 2007**

---

\* The following counties in South Carolina: Abbeville, Aiken, Allendale, Anderson, Bamberg, Barnwell, Beaufort, Colleton, Edgefield, Greenwood, Hampton, Jasper, Lexington, McCormick, Oconee and Saluda.

## REQUIREMENTS FOR SUBMISSION

---

### **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 should be “logical,” including the following considerations:

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

### **Mechanics**

Spelling should be correct; syntax should be readable; punctuation should be conventional. Essay should be free of sentence fragments. Diction (word choice) should be appropriate to the subject and the writer’s understanding of the topic. Point of view should be appropriate to the topic/subject and 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. Footnotes and references must be included when necessary.

### **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

---

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

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
type or print

### ***about the author(s)***

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_ age \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ age \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

Phone Number(s) \_\_\_\_\_

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

### ***about the school***

School \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone/Fax \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher \_\_\_\_\_

Class \_\_\_\_\_

### **Submit your Essay to**

SPE Section: Southern Section

Contact: Dr. Dong Yao

Address: The School of Polymer, Textile & Fiber Engineering

Georgia Institute of Technology

801 Ferst Drive

Atlanta, GA 30332-0295

Phone: (404) 894-9076; Fax: (404) 894-8780; Email: dong.yao@ptfe.gatech.edu