



**Douglas Soil and Water Conservation District/
Douglas County Lakes Association**
Environmental Essay Scholarship Guidelines



- Who May Enter:** Any high school senior living in or going to school in Douglas County, planning on attending an accredited college or university as a full-time student, may submit one essay.
- Topic Question:** Why is soil and water conservation important to my future?
- Essay Criteria:** Essays must answer the topic question in 1000 words or less and must be completely original compositions. Essays must be typed, using a font size of twelve (12) and one (1) inch margins. One cover page with essay title, applicant's name, school name, and home address must be submitted with the essay. All essays become property of the Douglas SWCD and may be used at their discretion.
- Judging:** Essays will be evaluated according to the following:
Comprehension/Content-How well does the essay reflect a thorough understanding of the topic?
Organization-Does the writing flows logically with clear structure?
Creativity-Were diverse resources and ideas used to develop the topic?
Writing/Style-Was correct grammar, spelling, punctuation, references/citations, and concise language used?
Adherence to contest rules
- Award:** The scholarship is to be used for books or tuition within one year of the award. Winners will be asked to provide an electronic copy (via e-mail, jump drive, or CD) of the essay so that it may be published in local newspapers and SWCD/DCLA newsletters or websites.
1st Place- \$500
2nd Place- \$300
- Timeline:** Essays must be received no later than **5:00 p.m. on Monday, March 14, 2011.** Mail or deliver to Douglas SWCD, 900 Robert Street, Suite 102, Alexandria, MN 56308.
- Sponsors:** Douglas Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) and Douglas County Lakes Association (DCLA).

For more information contact Emily Siira at 320-763-3191 x 3 or emily.siira@mn.nacdnet.net.