



Henderson County Soil & Water Conservation District

The Henderson County
Soil & Water
Conservation District
sponsors an essay contest
each year to provide
sixth through twelfth
grade students an
opportunity to explore
soil and water
conservation through
writing.

The essay contest is
available for students in
6th, 7th, 8th, 9th, 10th, 11th,
& 12th grades

All Essays must be back
to the Soil & Water
office no later than
February 14th, 2024.

828-697-4949

www.hendersoncountync.gov/soilwater



2023-2024 Soil & Water Essay Contest

“The Living Soil”

Design your essay to represent what “The Living Soil” means to you!

Essay: A short composition dealing with a single subject from a personal point of view; facts may be interwoven into the essay, which stimulates thinking.

Report: A formal presentation of facts in a report style.

Specifications—Essays must:

- Bear the current title of the essay contest.
- Be limited to 300-500 words. All words will be counted to reach the limit.
- Be presented on standard 8 ½” x 11” paper.
- Be properly identified on the back using the following format.
 - Students Name Grade:
 - Students Address/Parents’ Email, Phone
 - Teachers Name
 - School or Homeschool
 - County District: Henderson

Infractions (-5 points each):

- Incorrect Length
- Current Title Not Used
- Incorrect Paper size (-2 points)

Judging Criteria:

- Conservation Message 50%
- Writing Style 20%
- Organization 20%
- Neatness 10%

Hints:

- Plan Ahead!
- Engage your reader with an interesting point of view.
- Proofread, proofread, proofread!

RETURN YOUR ESSAY BY February 14th, 2023. They can be returned anytime all fall!

PRIZE PACKAGES are available to County Winners! County Winners can move on to the Area and State levels for a chance to win even more prizes!

Fill out the following information on a blank page attached to your essay.

Students Name: _____

Students Address: _____

Contact Email OR Phone: _____

Grade:

School Name: _____

Teacher Name: _____

HENDERSON COUNTY