American Dental Association
Health Literacy Essay (or “Writing”) Contest for Dental Students

Dental students will have the opportunity to research scientific literature on the topic of Community Water Fluoridation and write an essay on the topic that will be posted on the American Dental Association consumer website, MouthHealthy.org. Below is a synopsis of the contest requirements.

Please be sure to refer to the HEALTH LITERACY IN DENTISTRY ESSAY CONTEST FOR DENTAL STUDENTS AT PARTICIPATING DENTAL SCHOOLS 2019 OFFICIAL RULES for a complete listing of the contest rules.

Contest Goals:
• Goal 1: Increase dental students’ knowledge about health literacy, specifically plain language written materials.
• Goal 2: Increase dental students’ knowledge about the American Dental Association and www.mouthhealthy.org consumer website.

Important Dates:
• October 30, 2019 - Deadline for Students to submit essays to their dental school.
• November 30, 2019 - Deadline for dental schools to submit one entry to the ADA.
• ADA will announce winners in January 2020.

Essay Requirements:
• Essay Topic is Community Water Fluoridation
• Students are required to complete Entry and Release, Warranty and Assignment forms and provide proof of completion of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) online training modules, Health Literacy for Public Health Professionals and Writing for the Public.
• The essay must be original work, written in easy-to-understand language, using health literacy principles.
• Essay has at least 500 words but not have more than 700 words. (Contest rules provide detailed information about the essay and contest requirements.)
• Essay provides evidence-based information.

Role of Dental Schools:
• Distribute information about the competition to faculty and students. ADA will provide flyers and related information about the contest, including required forms.
• Collect and screen submitted essays according to guidelines outlined by the ADA.
• Select and submit one essay entry to the ADA for final judging, no later than November 30, 2019.

Contest Winners:
• One grand prize winner and two (2) runners-up may be chosen, depending on the quality of the entries.
• The grand prize winner will receive $500, and his or her essay will be published on the ADA’s consumer website, MouthHealthy.org.
• Two (2) runners-up will each receive $250.
• Awardees will be recognized through various venues, including ADA News.