



Marine Advisory Service
Delaware Sea Grant College Program
University of Delaware
Hugh R. Sharp Campus
700 Pilottown Road
Lewes, DE 19958



August 19, 2019

Dear Fifth-Grade Teacher:

On behalf of the Delaware Sea Grant College Program and the University of Delaware's College of Earth, Ocean, and Environment, I am pleased to extend an invitation to your fifth-grade classes to participate in the Coast Day 2019 essay contest. Coast Day offers students and teachers a unique opportunity to learn more about the ocean and coastal environments as they take part in hands-on research demonstrations, tour ships and laboratories, see and touch marine life, and enjoy numerous other activities, from marine science lectures to seafood cooking demonstrations. This year's theme is "A Ripple Through Time," and the festival will be held Sunday, October 6, from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., at the UD Hugh R. Sharp Campus in Lewes, Delaware.

Our Coast Day essay contest follows the day's theme this year, with students being asked to **describe how their favorite coastal place has changed or is changing and how they can have an impact on that change.** The enclosed materials are designed to help guide classroom discussion of the topic. Our intent is to create awareness about coastal issues in Delaware and to help teachers meet state standards through teaching about coastal ecosystems and the roles they play in our lives. Student essays must be postmarked or hand-delivered by close-of-business **Friday, September 20, 2019.**

Awards will be presented to the winning students and their teachers in a special ceremony at Coast Day, and the winners will be recognized in photos and press releases issued to the media.

While this essay topic does require some thought, the judges also will be looking for accurate descriptions that show students have researched the topic. A reminder that because this is a contest measuring students' aptitude for writing, parents should provide only limited help/guidance. A copy of a judge's scoring sheet is included in this packet, so you can see how different areas are weighted. If you have any questions, please contact me at 302-645-4193, or by e-mail at dmchrist@udel.edu. Visit www.decoastday.org for more information.

Sincerely,

David Christopher
Marine Education Specialist

Enclosure



Coast Day 2019

Theme: A Ripple through Time

Throughout the history of Delaware, our coastal areas have played an important role. Native American's lived along Delaware's waterways. Dutch and Swedish settlers sailed to Delaware and set up communities near the water in Wilmington and Lewes. Today, fishing and shipping provide Delaware with many jobs. Every year, millions of people come to Delaware to enjoy our beaches. Through the years Delaware's coastal areas have changed. Some of these changes have been very positive and some of these changes have not been positive.

Think about your favorite place in Delaware. What type of changes do you think have happened to this place in the past? What do you think this place will look like in future? How do your actions impact what this place could look like?

We want to know about how your favorite coastal area has changed and how you can have a positive impact on that areas future.

1. **Start by identifying your favorite coastal place in Delaware. It could be a bayshore or ocean beach, river, pond, creek, or even Delaware Bay or the coastal Atlantic Ocean, then**
2. **Explain how that area has changed or is changing, and what you can do to have a positive impact on the future of that area.**

***Note: Please include student's name, teacher's name, school name, and word count on each entry.**

Word Count: Up to 400 words. Please include the word count at the bottom of the essay.

Deadline: Postmarked or hand-delivered by Friday, September 20, 2019

Mail entries to: Coast Day Essay Contest

Delaware Sea Grant – Marine Advisory Service
700 Pilottown Rd
Lewes, DE 19958

Prizes will be awarded to the winning essayists:

First prize: \$100 bookstore gift card

Second prize: \$75 bookstore gift card

Third prize: \$50 bookstore gift card

Essay writers receiving honorable mention and teachers of winning students will also be recognized!

Questions? Contact David Christopher at 302-645-4193 or dmchrist@UDel.edu

Parents: If your fifth grader is entering this contest as an individual, and not as part of a teacher's assignment or extra credit, please notify your student's teacher that they are submitting an essay.

Teacher's Aids:

The books and websites below are a great starting point for both teachers and students.

This contest can also be used to meet Delaware state Science, Social Studies, and English/Language Arts standards. A few examples of standards related to this essay theme are highlighted below.

Sample Vocabulary

adaptation, agriculture, air quality, aquatic, biome, buffer zone, community, conservation, cooperation, discharge, development, ecosystem, energy, environment, erosion, estuary, freshwater, habitat, investigate, legislation, marine, monitoring, native plants, nutrients, phytoplankton, pollinator, regulation, restoration, runoff, stormwater, sustainable, tourism, water quality, watershed

Web Resources

Climate Change in Delaware Impact Assessment summary report

<http://www.dnrec.delaware.gov/energy/Pages/The-Delaware-Climate-Impact-Assessment.aspx>

Delaware Historical and Cultural Affairs

<https://history.delaware.gov/>

Delaware Historical Society

<http://dehistory.org/>

Delaware Public Archives

<https://archives.delaware.gov/digital-archives/>

Delaware State Parks

<http://www.destateparks.com/>

Delaware National Estuary Research Reserve

<https://dnrec.alpha.delaware.gov/coastal-programs/research-reserve/>

NOAA National Ocean Service – Coastal Ecosystem Science

<http://oceanservice.noaa.gov/ecosystems/coastalecosci/>

Smithsonian Ocean Portal – Helping Kids Help the Ocean

<http://ocean.si.edu/blog/helping-kids-help-ocean/>

Thank You Delaware Bay – Get Involved

<http://www.tydb.org/get-involved>

Thank You Ocean – Take Action (California-based, but list is relevant nationwide)
<http://www.thankyouocean.org/take-action/>

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency – Exploring Estuaries
<http://www.epa.gov/owow/estuaries/kids/>

Useful Publications — Books

The Delaware Estuary: Rediscovering a Forgotten Resource, Delaware Sea Grant, (ISBN: 0961979216)

Ecology (DK Eyewitness Books), Brian Lane, (ISBN: 0756613876)

Everything Kids' Environment Book: Learn how you can help the environment — by getting involved at school, at home, or at play, Sheri Amsel, (ISBN: 159869670X)

Heroes of the Environment: True Stories of People Who Are Helping to Protect Our Planet, Harriet Rohmer (ISBN: 081186779X)

Ocean (DK Eyewitness Books), Miranda MacQuitty (ISBN: 0756637767)

Pond & River (DK Eyewitness Books), Steve Parker, (ISBN: 0756610850)

The New 50 Simple Things Kids Can Do to Save the Earth, John Javna and the Earthworks Group (ISBN: 0740777467)

Water Stewardship: A 30-Day Program to Protect and Conserve Our Water Resources, David Gershon (ISBN: 0964437376)

Delaware/Next Generation Science Standards & Common Core Content Standards

Reprinted in part from: <http://www.nextgenscience.org> and
<http://www.doe.k12.de.us/commoncore/ela/teachertoolkit/geninfo.shtml>.

5-LS2 Ecosystems: Interactions, Energy, and Dynamics

LS2.A: Interdependent Relationships in Ecosystems

LS2.B: Cycles of Matter and Energy Transfer in Ecosystems

5-ESS2 Earth's Systems

ESS2.A: Earth Materials and Systems

ESS2.B: The Roles of Water in Earth's Surface Processes

5-ESS3 Earth and Human Activity

ESS3.C: Human Impacts on Earth Systems

3-5-ETS1 Engineering Design

ETS1.B: Developing Possible Solutions
ETS1.C: Optimizing the Design Solution

Common Core English Language Arts Standards – Writing – Grade 5

Text Types and Purposes

- CC.5.W.2 Write informative/explanatory texts to examine a topic and convey ideas and information clearly.
- CC.5.W.3. Write narratives to develop real or imagined experiences or events using effective technique, descriptive details, and clear event sequences.

Production and Distribution of Writing

- CC.5.W.4. Produce clear and coherent writing in which the development and organization are appropriate to task, purpose, and audience.
- CC.5.W.5. With guidance and support from peers and adults, develop and strengthen writing as needed by planning, revising, editing, rewriting, or trying a new approach.

Research to Build and Present Knowledge

- CC.5.W.7. Conduct short research projects that use several sources to build knowledge through investigation of different aspects of a topic.
- CC.5.W.8. Recall relevant information from experiences or gather relevant information from print and digital sources; summarize or paraphrase information in notes and finished work, and provide a list of sources.

Common Core English Language Arts Standards – Language – Grade 5

Conventions of Standard English

- CC.5.L.1. Demonstrate command of the conventions of Standard English grammar and usage when writing or speaking.
- CC.5.L.2. Demonstrate command of the conventions of Standard English capitalization, punctuation, and spelling when writing.

Knowledge of Language

- CC.5.L.3.a. Expand, combine, and reduce sentences for meaning, reader/listener interest, and style.

Vocabulary Acquisition and Use

- CC.5.L.6. Acquire and use accurately grade-appropriate general academic and domain-specific words and phrases, including those that signal contrast, addition, and other logical relationships (e.g., *however, although, nevertheless, similarly, moreover, in addition*).

Delaware State Standards for Social Studies

Reprinted in part from: <https://www.doe.k12.de.us/Page/2548>

History Anchor Standard Four: Students will develop historical knowledge of major events and phenomena in world, United States, and Delaware history [Content].

4-5a: Students will develop an understanding of Delaware history and its connections with United States history, including:

- Native American inhabitants before European contact
- Exploration and settlement (1609-1775)
- From the First State to the Civil War (1776-1865)
- Growth of commerce, industry, transportation, and agriculture (1865-1945)
- Modern Delaware (1945-present)

History Anchor Standard Two: Students will gather, examine, and analyze historical data [Analysis].

4-5a: Students will draw historical conclusions and construct historical accounts from primary and secondary source materials.

Geography Anchor Standard Two: Students will develop a knowledge of the ways humans modify and respond to the natural environment [ENVIRONMENT].

4-5a: Students will apply a knowledge of topography, climate, soils, and vegetation of Delaware and the United States to understand how human society alters, and is affected by, the physical environment.



Coast Day 2019

5th Grade Delaware Student Essay Contest

Name:

School:

Teacher:

5 = Excellent

2 = Below average

4 = Above average

1 = Poor

3 = Average

0 = Did not attempt/show

Content (25 points)

- ____ Essay shows overall understanding of subject matter and clearly and accurately addresses the topic. (5)
- ____ Main idea is clear, focused, and well supported. (5)
- ____ Student has met and followed requirements and criteria of the writing prompt. (5)
- ____ Student has included information from suggested/relevant resources and sample vocabulary. (5)
- ____ Essay includes only factual, accurate information—scientific, historic, etc. (5)

____ Total

Organization (15 points)

- ____ Essay has a strong beginning that draws the reader into the text. (5)
- ____ Paragraphs are focused, idea-centered, and transition smoothly, connecting ideas and creating a sense of flow. (5)
- ____ Essay has a logical order and leads the reader through the text, including a clear beginning, middle, and end. (5)

____ Total

Grammar and Spelling (10 points)

- ____ Essay demonstrates correct use of sentence structure and punctuation. (5)
- ____ Student uses correct spelling and capitalization. (5)

____ Total

Originality & Creativity (15 points)

- ____ Student creates a meaningful connection to the reader. (5)
- ____ Student takes fresh approach to subject, addressing topic in a creative way. (5)
- ____ Student uses interesting organization or storytelling techniques to examine topic in an original manner. (5)

____ Total

____ **Final Score (65 points possible)**