

A SALUTE TO ENGINEERING

Participants will create and submit an original piece of writing that responds to the following contest prompt:

The COVID-19 pandemic profoundly changed how we work, learn, and play. Making these changes were – and continue to be – an immense challenge.

Fortunately, this is the kind of challenge that engineers are made for.

Since COVID-19 began raging across the globe, engineers have been working with public health officials, medical workers, business owners, and research scientists to implement solutions to problems posed by the pandemic. They have contributed essential insights and expertise to address issues like:

- protecting essential workers in different environments
- helping people work from home
- retooling factories to make medical or protective equipment
- mass producing and distributing medicines and vaccines
- maintaining supply chains when businesses are closed
- making schools safer for students and their families
- helping people stay connected

The 2021 EngineerGirl Writing Contest invites you submit a piece of writing that salutes engineering's role in meeting and defeating the challenges presented by COVID-19.

There are several different ways to approach writing your piece. Here are just a few examples:

- Share a story of engineers who helped solve a specific pandemic-related problem, or
- Present examples of several different kinds of engineering that were called upon to solve problems during the recent pandemic, or
- Explain how engineering will be important in preventing and protecting us during future epidemics, or
- Make a persuasive argument for how important engineers and engineering are in society – particularly in times of uncertainty or rapid change.

More tips for writing a winning entry can be found below.

WHAT DO I SUBMIT?

You should submit a piece of writing that salutes engineering's role in meeting and defeating the challenges presented by COVID-19. Your submission must also follow the specific guidelines and limits for your competition category – based on your grade level.

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL (GRADES 3–5)

Write a letter to the editor of a local paper or community website that pays tribute to the contributions of engineers responding to the pandemic. You may include an original artwork or graphic along with your letter. *Limit: 600 words.*

MIDDLE SCHOOL (GRADES 6–8)

Write a news story or blog post that illustrates the contribution of engineers in responding to the pandemic. You may include one original image or graphic and up to five references in an annotated bibliography that will help support your story. *Limit: 650 words.*

HIGH SCHOOL (GRADES 9–12)

Write an essay that examines the vital contribution of engineers in responding to the pandemic. You must include at least 3, but no more than 10 references in an annotated bibliography to support your essay. You may also include one image or graphic that will help the reader understand your ideas. *Limit: 700 words.*

ALL STUDENTS PLEASE NOTE: Your name, address, phone number, or any other personally identifying information should **NOT** appear in the text of your submission.

Elementary school students, we recommend that you sign your letter simply as “A concerned citizen” and use a fake street address such as 123 Main St., as your return address.

You may submit one entry in one – and only one - of the competition categories.

**All submissions must be original work.
Any evidence of plagiarism will immediately disqualify an entry.**

A Submission may not contain offensive, libelous, sexually explicit, disparaging or other inappropriate content and may not defame or otherwise violate the rights, copyrights, trademarks, or rights of publicity, privacy, or reputation of any third party. A Submission may not contain any material to promote sale of a product or service.

Each entrant is solely responsible for the information, data, text, graphics, and other materials included in the Submission, whether publicly posted or privately transmitted. A Submission must be original and the entrant must (1) hold all necessary rights to all the materials and information in the Submission or (2) have permission from the holder of such rights, or (3) the materials and information in the Submission must be in the public domain. Winners will have to ensure that they have all rights necessary to permit them to transfer ownership of the essay, including transfer of any permissions and rights obtained from third parties, to the NAE.

CAN I INCLUDE IMAGES OR DIAGRAMS?

Yes. Each contestant may include one, and only one, image or PDF document file to accompany his or her submission. Only .jpg or .pdf formats will be accepted.

CAUTION: Beware of using images found online. Most of these images are protected by copyright and cannot be used without permission. You should only submit images that you create or that you are certain you may use. If you use an image protected by a Creative Commons license, please indicate that with your submission.

While including images may improve your submission, they are not required and you should not rely on them to make your argument. Judges will be scoring the text of your submission; attached material may be used to break ties.

*PLEASE NOTE: Your name, address, phone number, or any other personally identifying information should **NOT** appear in the attachment. If it does, the file cannot be considered as part of your submission.*

WHAT IS AN ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY?

An annotated bibliography is a list of resources that your readers can go to for more information about something you mention or use in your story. It can also be a list of the resources you used to research and prepare for writing your story.

Only middle and high school students should submit an annotated bibliography. When creating your annotated bibliography, list each resource using the APA citation style along with 1-2 sentences that explains why the resource is recommended reading. This does not count toward your word limit.

The quality of the annotated bibliography submitted with a story may be used to break ties.

HOW DO I SUBMIT MY ENTRY?

Entrants should, whenever possible, submit their work through the online Entry Form: <https://www.engineergirl.org/127907/contest-submission-form>

Those with unreliable or slow internet connections may request a fill-in PDF form that can be completed offline and submitted via email. Request a form by sending an email to EngineerGirl@nae.edu with the subject line "2021 Contest form request". There is no penalty for using the PDF form.

ALL entries, regardless of how they are submitted, are presented to the judges in the same format, which excludes all personal information.

WHAT IS THE DEADLINE?

The Competition will close at 11:59 PM, February 1, 2021, U.S. Eastern Standard Time. All entries, regardless of how they are submitted, must be *received* prior to this date and time in order to be considered.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO COMPETE?

The contest is open to individual girls and boys in the following three competition categories: Elementary School Students (grades 3-5), Middle School Students in (grades 6-8), or High School Students (grades 9-12).

The category for entry is based on US grade categories. Home schooled or international students should choose an appropriate category based on where the student would be placed if attending public school in the US.

Prior winners of the EngineerGirl writing contest who received a cash prize may not enter again in the same age group.

Employees of the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine and their immediate families or those living in the same household as a National Academies employee are not eligible to enter this competition.

HOW WILL ENTRIES BE JUDGED?

Submissions will be judged by a slate of volunteers that include professionals from various engineering fields. In addition to checking that submissions meet all of the basic rules, they will be looking for:

Presentation of engineering (40 points)

How well does the piece demonstrate engineering's positive and essential role in society? How well does it convey engineers' ability to solve a wide range of problems in different sectors?

Examples of engineering (25 points)

How well does the piece illustrate how engineering design can be used to reach working solutions to real-world problems? Does it include specific examples?

Celebration of diversity (20 points)

How well does the piece reflect how engineering is strengthened by diverse perspectives and approaches?

Quality of writing (15 points)

How well-written and persuasive is the piece?

Take time to review the contest scorecard, which is available online at:

<https://www.engineergirl.org/134862/2021-Contest-scorecard>

The quality of the annotated bibliography submitted with a story may be used to break ties.

Finalists will be judged by the EngineerGirl Steering Committee. The decisions of the judges are final and incontestable.

WHEN WILL THE WINNERS BE ANNOUNCED?

Finalists will be notified in writing via email by May 1, 2021 and will be required to submit a signed copy of the EngineerGirl Use License and Release giving the NAE permission to publish the entry should it be selected as a winner.

Winners will be notified in writing via email by June 1, 2021, and the winning entries will be posted on the EngineerGirl website by July 1, 2021. A list of contest winners may be obtained by submitting a request in writing to: EngineerGirl Writing Contest, National Academy of Engineering, 500 Fifth Street, NW, Washington, DC 20001.

WHAT ARE THE PRIZES?

Winners in each grade category will receive the prizes listed below:

- First-place winners will be awarded \$500.

- Second-place entries will be awarded \$250.

- Third-place entries will be awarded \$100.

All winning entries will be published on the EngineerGirl website. Honorable Mention entries will not receive a cash award but will be published on the EngineerGirl website.

Prize funds will be distributed to an individual winner (or the winner's parent or guardian, if the winner is under 18 years old). Any federal, state, and local taxes, and all similar fees and assessments, are the sole responsibility of the prize recipient.

HOW DO I WRITE A WINNING ENTRY?

Take time to learn about engineers and engineering in general. The better you understand the engineering design process, the clearer and more persuasive you can be in your writing.

Include specific, detailed examples. This is one of the most effective ways to improve persuasive or non-fiction writing. Do plenty of research so that you can provide not only facts and numbers, but also testimonials, personal accounts, or historical comparisons.

Choose to focus on something that you care about or that you are curious about. It is easier to do research and write about something that's important to you. Your interest in the subject will also come through in your writing, making your piece – and your arguments – more powerful.

The most successful letters, stories, and essays will demonstrate how diversity and unique perspectives help engineers create better solutions to problems. As you conduct your research, make special note of projects that have been tackled by diverse teams or that addressed the concerns of specific (often underrepresented) groups.



ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS AND DISCLAIMERS

By entering this competition, each individual entrant (for individuals under 18 years old, the individual's parent or guardian) grants the NAE a worldwide nonexclusive, royalty-free, transferable license to use the essay, or any portion thereof, for NAE purposes, and grants NAE a world-wide, non-exclusive, royalty-free, transferable license to use the entrants' names, likenesses, photographs, and/or biographical information for advertising, publicity, and promotional purposes.

If selected as a winner, each individual (and for individuals under 18 years old, the individual's parent or guardian) hereby agrees to irrevocably grant and assign exclusively to the NAE all rights, including copyright interests in the essays, under all laws, treaties and conventions throughout the world, in all forms, languages and media, now or hereafter known or developed without limitation. Use, publication, or dissemination by winners of their respective essay may be permitted at the discretion of NAE, as approved in writing in advance by the NAE. Submitting an essay to this competition does not guarantee that the Submission will be displayed or used by NAE.

Use by NAE of a Submission does not necessarily reflect the views of the NAE, and in no event shall NAE assume or have any responsibility or liability for any Submission, in whole or in part, or for any claims, damages, or losses resulting from the use and/or appearance of any Submission or the contents thereof.

NAE reserves the right to refuse any Submission in its sole discretion. NAE also reserves the right at any time during the competition to remove or disqualify any Submission when it believes in its sole discretion that the entrant has: (i) infringed any third party's copyright; (ii) failed to comply with these Terms and Conditions; or (iii) failed to obtain the necessary consents as set out in these terms and conditions.

NAE shall not be liable for any claims, costs, liabilities, damages, expenses, and losses arising out of (i) NAE's use of the Submission; (ii) the entrant's participation in the competition; (iii) technical failures of any kind including but not limited to problems or delays arising from software or equipment malfunctions or computer viruses; and (iv) any events outside NAE's reasonable control.

By entering this competition, each individual entrant, (and for individuals under 18 years old, the individual's parent or guardian) represents and warrants that: (i) the entrant is the sole author, creator, and owner of the Submission; (ii) except for material used by permission, none of the intellectual property rights in the Submission, or any portion thereof, has been assigned or transferred to anyone other than the entrant; (iii) the Submission, through its creation and its submission as an entry, does not violate any applicable laws; and (iv) the Submission, through its creation and its submission as an entry, does not infringe upon or violate intellectual property rights held by any third person or party.

Any entrant who supplies false information, enters the NAE EngineerGirl Writing Contest by fraudulent means, or is otherwise determined to be in violation of the eligibility criteria or terms of EngineerGirl Writing Contest shall be ineligible for any prize and shall be required to forfeit any prize obtained based on such information or means.

By entering a Submission in the Contest, each individual entrant (and for individuals under 18 years old, the individual's parent or guardian) agrees to comply with and be bound by the official rules and decisions of NAE.

All references to NAE contained herein refer to the National Academy of Sciences on behalf of the National Academy of Engineering.

This Contest is void where prohibited. The Contest shall be governed by, construed and enforced in accordance with the laws of the District of Columbia.