

**2009 National Collegiate Agricultural Education
Essay Contest
Rules and Guidelines
Sponsored by ATA**

General Information

The National Collegiate Agricultural Education Essay Contest is held in October of each year with participants developing their essays from a topic selected by the host chapter. The topic will be sent by the host organization directly to the local collegiate agricultural education organizations. The essays will be mailed to the host organization prior to the National ATA Conclave with the deadline for entry to be established by the host organization.

Appropriate plaques will be awarded to first and second place contestants and their chapters during the Business Meeting at the National ATA Conclave. First and Second place contestants will also receive checks for \$100.00 and \$50.00 respectively. The first place essay will be submitted by the host organization for publication in The Agricultural Education Magazine.

Essay Format

1. Length 500 -750 words (applies to the essay, not the cover sheet or bibliography)
2. Body Word-processed, double-spaced. Any standard font is acceptable.
3. Bibliography References used for the essay must be included in a bibliography [American Psychological Association (APA) style only].
4. Format **Cover Sheet**
Title: Centered on mid-page
Contestant Name: Centered, 3 lines below title
University: Centered, next line
Organization: Centered, next line
Date: Centered, next line

Essay
Title: Centered, top of page two (2)
First Paragraph: 3 lines below the title

Bibliography Center the heading "Bibliography" two lines below the end of the essay and include references in APA Style.

General Rules

1. Two essays may be entered from each university with a collegiate agricultural education organization (e.g., Agricultural Education Club, Agricultural Education Society).
2. Essays must be postmarked by the deadline established by the host chapter. **NO LATE ESSAYS WILL BE ACCEPTED.**
3. Contestants must research and write their own essay.
4. The host chapter will not be allowed to participate in the contest.
5. Each year, hosting responsibility will be passed to the agricultural education organization of the first place contestant.

Scoring

The essay will be scored on the following criteria:

- 70% Content and organization of the essay. The essay should be factual and make a professional contribution.
- 20% Appearance (format, grammar, spelling, and/or typographical errors)
- 10% Bibliography (APA style)

Judges

Judges will be selected by the host chapter and will include:

- 2 agricultural teacher educators (one of whom must be a collegiate agricultural education organization advisor).
- 2 collegiate agricultural education organization members.