



High School Essay Contest 2017 - 2018

The Florida Independent Concrete and Associated Products Association (FICAP) is sponsoring the annual *High School Essay on Concrete Contest* for Florida and your students are invited to participate.

All entries into FICAP's Essay Contest will be judged by a panel of industry personnel and FICAP will award scholarships to the first place (\$1,500) and second-place (\$800) essays. The first-place winner will have their essay published in an edition of *In the Mix*, a FICAP eNews publication.

The rules are as follows:

- Open to all high school seniors ages 16-18 at the beginning of the 2017-2018 school term.
- Essay must be typed, double-spaced and not exceed 600 words.
- Submit a copy of the essay accompanied by an entry form (enclosed).
- Send essay and entry form to: info@ficap.org.
- Essays will be judged on content and writing ability (grammar, style, clarity, etc.) and should demonstrate a student's awareness of concrete's role as a building material in homes, commercial buildings, streets and highways. Remember, this is **not a report** but an **essay** about concrete.
- Winning essay authors will be asked to submit a photo.

Essay idea starters:

Concrete's benefits to society;

Concrete is green;

Concrete and technology;

Concrete...local resource...local jobs;

Concrete's positive effect on the environment...the job market;

Using concrete to build homes, commercial buildings, bridges or roads

Please submit entries by **Friday, March 2, 2018**.

FICAP · PO Box 953905 · Lake Mary, FL 32795-3905
info@ficap.org · www.ficap.org · 407-302-3316



**PO Box 953905
Lake Mary, FL 32795-3905
407-302-3316**

Dear District Director/Guidance Counselor/Teacher,

Our association is hosting an essay contest and would like to invite students in your county to participate. The contest is open to High School Seniors ages 16-18 in the 2017/2018 school year. Enclosed is a letter for guidance counselors, along with a poster and documents students need in order to participate. Please share with anyone you feel would like to participate and with students who meet the criteria.

We love concrete and hope to inspire Florida residents to feel the same way! Possible idea starters: Concrete's positive effects on the environment, the job market, etc.; Concrete's benefits to society; Concrete is green; Concrete and technology; Concrete...local resource...local jobs.

If you should need additional information, please do not hesitate to ask.

Sincerely,

Michele White
Executive Director
Michele@ficap.org

Daily trips to school had become routine for Adam, what was unexpected was a new assignment in his English class. All students were to draw one word from a hat and proceed to write a creative piece on that one word. Frightening to say the least, this double weighted assignment depended on one word. His turn finally came, without looking he could feel all the possibilities slipping between his fingertips hoping for a fun word such as “sports”, or “science.”

His word “concrete.”

Everyone laughed under their breath, thankful they didn’t pick a word as boring as “concrete.” Adam played it off; he could still ace the assignment. As the cold sweat approached, so did the bell and he vacated the school. He was nervous and had lots of research to do. Concrete would not bury him. He would conquer concrete.

There was no time to waste, he had to know all there was to know to pull off an A. The basics of concrete of it being a solid and made of 3 aspects: aggregate, water and cement was too boring to cement a solid score. He dug deeper into the history and to his surprise concrete had been around longer than the enlightenment where great thinking took off. In fact, it had been occurring naturally on earth for millions of years. Curious minds began mixing the elements of earth and trial and error turned into one of the most powerful organic mixtures capable of withstanding the forces, and supporting and protecting those that created it. Adam, began to see the significance behind concrete as he learned more about it and felt bold enough to write a poem for his assignment.

Concrete

Chances are it’s been poured all around you.
Discovering its strength was a major breakthrough
Arm’s length away it’s made to stay
Despite its popularity, it has no holiday.
The Romans paved the way,
Their ancient structures of concrete can be seen today.
Columns became arches, pillars and domes,
Rome became the greatest place to roam.
Nothing lasts forever and down went Rome.
Concrete was buried,
800 years alone.
The Industrial Revolution revived concrete,
Brought it to life, poured under every man’s feet.
Water, rocks, cement, aggregate
Natural materials, for that I’m an advocate
It can stand alone and withstand the weather,
Made of earth and water it can resist a fire.
Millions of people concrete has hired.
Sadly its social significance is overlooked,
Something not taught in history textbooks.
Its perfection has protected and connected society,
Providing peace and privacy for the public.
Roads carry truckloads resulting in new area codes.
Where humans travel, concrete will too
Concrete needs humans and humans need it too,
Without each other its presence might not ensue.

Adam was more than excited to turn in his creative piece and sure enough the assignment was a success! Far more important than the grade received, Adam had a new respect for concrete and his peers did too. Something so simple and prevalent had been forgotten and unappreciated. Adam thought about how amazing it is that one word could not only help him become a better creative writer, but teach him about something beyond the classroom. He felt empowered writing about it because he truly believed without concrete, humans are just another vulnerable animal. Concrete has put human’s one step higher on the social ladder and humans have put concrete on the map. This strong bond has come to stay for the present and future.



**High School Essay Contest
Entry Form 2017 - 2018**

Date: _____

Student Name: _____

Student Email: _____ Cell #: _____

Student's DOB: _____ School Name: _____

School Address: _____

School Contact (*Name and phone number of a teacher or school official familiar with the student*).

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Parent/Guardian Name: _____

Street Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Home Phone: _____ Email: _____

I have read the rules of the 2017-2018 FICAP Essay Contest and agree to abide by them:

Student signature

Date

I have read the rules of the 2017-2018 FICAP Essay Contest and agree to abide by them:

Parent or Guardian signature

Date

Mail Essay & Entry Form Hardcopy to:

FICAP

PO Box 953905

Lake Mary, FL 32795-3905

Email Essay & Entry Form to:

info@ficap.org

Entries must be postmarked by: **Friday, March 2, 2018.**



Would you like
a chance at
a \$1,500
Scholarship?

Ask your guidance
counselor about the
FICAP
2017 High School
Essay Contest

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