

**Jackson State University
Mathematics/Engineering Fair
2008 Essay Contest Topic and Regulations**

Topic: “Math in the World Around Us”

All essays must comply with the following contest rules before submission:

- No literary form other than an essay will be accepted.
- Each essay must reflect the contestant's own research, writing and original thinking.
- Only one (1) essay may be submitted by each student.
- **Entries must be emailed on or before March 31, 2008.**
- Teachers must verify that the essay is the student’s original work.
- Essays must be typed. *Word, WordPerfect, or PDF.*
- **The essay text is limited to two (2) double-spaced, single-sided, numbered pages with one-inch margins, and 12 pt Times New Roman font.** The title page is not included in the two pages.
- Each essay must include a title page, not considered text, with the following information:

Essay title
author's name
school name
school address
school telephone number
total number of pages of essay
name of supervising teacher

- The title of the essay, but NOT the author's name, MUST appear on the top of the first page of essay text.
- Send your essay via e-mail, to: david.c.bramlett@jsums.edu

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Judging

College Mathematics faculty and staff will judge the essays using five criteria. A sample scoring sheet follows.

Essay Scoring Sheets

Rate each of the five categories 1 through 20, with 20 as the highest score. Add the five categories to reach the essay's final score.

Essay Number _____

I. Comprehension (1-20 points) _____

How well does the essay reflect a thorough comprehension of the issues involved the essay topic?

II. Organization (1-20 points) _____

Does the argument follow a logical and easily understood progression? Does corroborating evidence support the essay's main points?

III. Conclusions (1-20 points) _____

Do the conclusions follow logically from the argument?
How compelling are the conclusions?

IV. Creativity (1-20 points) _____

Use of diverse resources, including interviews, inspiring tales, poetry, and math quotations. Creative angle on the issue.

V. Writing (1-20 points) _____

Correct grammar, spelling, punctuation.
Concise language.

Final Score _____