



2025 Workers Memorial Day Scholarship Essay Contest

Sponsored by the Connecticut AFL-CIO Health and Safety Committee

Each year during Worker Memorial Day ceremonies on April 28th, workers, legislators, members of organized labor unions, worker advocates and others gather to honor the memory of those workers who have lost their lives because of workplace injuries or illnesses. The ceremonies highlight the sacrifices made by these workers and of the families left behind and inspire us all to work harder on behalf of the welfare of all workers.

This year the Connecticut AFL-CIO Health and Safety Committee, as part of its efforts to “mourn the dead but fight like hell for the living”, is offering a scholarship essay contest to inspire high school seniors to think about the importance of workplace health and safety, of the consequences that arise when workers are forced to toil in unsafe working conditions and of the role that organized labor has played in protecting workers both in the past and present.

In this year’s scholarship essay contest, public high school seniors in Connecticut are asked to respond in **1,000** words or less to **ONE** of the three questions below with serious thought, some research (with cited sources), and, most importantly, awareness of the true cost of workplace hazards on the lives of workers.

1st Prize: \$2,000

2nd Prize: \$1,500

3rd Prize: \$1,000

Rules & Requirements:

- All entries will be judged anonymously on content, originality and clarity of vision.
- Essays must be based on your original ideas and thoughts, guided by your personal experience and/or library or internet research.
- Library and internet research must be documented with the original source. Published sources must include the author, publication name, publication date, and page numbers. Internet sources must reference the complete URLs.
- Artificial Intelligence (AI) may not be used to write your essay. All essays submitted to the contest are subject to being scanned by AI content detectors, and essays using AI content will be disqualified.

The winners of this contest will be asked to share a portion of their essay during our 2025 Worker Memorial Day event on Monday, April 28, 2025, at 12:00 pm, at the Bushnell Park Worker Memorial, Hartford.

In 1,000 words or less please respond to ONE of the following scenarios:

1. There have been several events in CT's history in which CT workers have been injured, made ill or fatally injured. Choose at least one event and discuss its significance and impact on worker health and safety today.
2. How do government safety agencies help protect workers? What would the impact on workers be if they were eliminated or their budgets were cut?
3. Many have noted that the Earth's climate has been changing. What issues does climate change cause for workers and how does it impact their health & safety?

This essay contest is open to all public high school seniors in Connecticut seeking any post-secondary education. Please refer any questions to Pamela Puchalski at pamela@ctcosh.org.

The completed essay and application must be received by April 1, 2025.

Link to submit your application and essay:

bit.ly/2025wmd