

**THE FIGHT OF OUR LIVES: COLLABORATION TO DRIVE
CLIMATE ACTION!**

CALLING FOR SHORT ESSAYS, ARTWORK, AND POETRY!

CALLING ALL
POETS &
ARTIST

Submit by
April 1, 2024

Poetry & Art showcase at
the Growing Sustainable
Communities Conference



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Submitting Your Art



20
24

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Dear Middle & High School Teachers,

The Growing Sustainable Communities Conference will be held April 23 - 24, 2024 at the Grand River Center. Hosted by the City of Dubuque's Office of Sustainability, the conference is the largest and longest standing sustainability conference in the Midwest. The conference features two days of education, inspiration, and collaboration on topics of interest to anyone who cares about creating great towns and cities that stand the test of time. Learn more about the conference: www.gscdubuque.com.

In 2024, we'd like to feature poetry, essays and artwork created by Dubuque middle and high school students and put it on display! We host practitioners from around the country who care about growing sustainable communities and we want Dubuque youth to remind them why this work is valuable and important. We need your help!

We've created a guide to (hopefully) help you merge our request into your work. We recognize this is an extra lift, and may be impossible, and if that is the case, at a minimum, please pass this information along to your students. Students do not need to submit through a school or teacher. If you are able and willing to incorporate this into classroom work, the guide we created includes prompts and videos to inspire reflection.

We are looking for creations that demonstrate originality, technical skill, and emergence of a person's voice or vision. Work will be displayed in our mini gallery as part of the exhibit hall. Additionally, willing students submitting poetry or spoken word will have the chance to present their work before our keynote speakers during the conference!

If you have questions, comments, or concerns, please reach out to me, Gina Bell, at gbell@cityofdubuque.org or 563.690.6038. Deadline for submission is **April 1, 2024**. Earlier is TOTALLY FINE 😊.

Thank you for your consideration,



Gina Bell

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Director of Sustainability
City of Dubuque

Submission Information:

[Submission Form](#) (please submit one application with each piece of art)

Physical art may be brought to City Hall, Office of Sustainability. Please clearly mark with your name and contact information.



<https://www.sustainabledubuque.org/gsc-ccall-for-artists>

- Link to Sustainable Dubuque website; with drop down information for Growing Sustainable Communities Conference, Call for Youth Artists

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For Teachers:

- Have students watch the climate change focused videos and/or read the articles about other students around the world stepping up to fight against climate change.
- Afterwards, have discussions about why youth are taking this initiative and what we can do in our homes and schools to advocate for a greener planet.
- Have students write poetry or create an art piece showcasing their feelings about changes in our climate, the future of our planet, or actions that can be taken to help solve climate issues.
- Submit art and poetry to Sustainability Director, Gina Bell by April 1, 2024, by emailing info@sustainabledubuque.org.
- Artwork and poetry will be on display at the Growing Sustainable Communities Conference on April 23 and 24, 2024 at the Grand River Center.

Specifications:

Artwork

- Minimum submission size is 3" x 5"
- Maximum size is 36" x 36"
- Sculpture or other forms may be any size, but please keep in mind space limitations

Essays and Poetry

- Should not exceed 700 words

Student Writing Prompts:

- Write about the impact of climate change on our future and future generations to come...
- How can you contribute to fighting or reducing climate change?

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- Craft a poem consisting of what you believe our world will look like 100 years from now...
- If we are unable to improve how we treat the planet, how do you think the earth will look in 1,000 years from now?
- Think about your ancestors who were alive 100 years ago, and who has come since (grandparents, parents, aunts, uncles, and you) Now, think about how each of them contributed to your life by how they lived their lives...
- Considering the well-being of the Earth, what actions do you believe our ancestors would encourage you to take in preparation for your life and the lives of future generations?
- Create a literature piece designed to inspire collective community action against climate change...
- What kinds of policies could Dubuque implement to conserve energy?
- 'The Earth means.... to me...'
- 'We are lucky the Earth provides us with...'

Helpful Educational Resources:

Middle School

"I'm only a kid, I can't do anything about climate change..... Right

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PsL9WC-2cQ>

13 Inspiring Examples Of Young Environmentalists Making A Difference

- <https://www.plt.org/story/young-environmentalists-examples/>

Kids Take Action Against Ocean Plastic | Short Film Showcase

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hKFV9IquMXA>

Kids React to Climate Change

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yDPLI5Z204M>

Dear Future Generations: Sorry

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eRLJscAlk1M>

Man vs. Earth

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VrzbRZn5Ed4>

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High school

Spoken Word performance at the 2019 GSC Conference by Dubuque Senior HS student Evelyn Jenkins (Beginning at minute 31.24)

- https://cityofdubuque.granicus.com/MediaPlayer.php?view_id=3&clip_id=3464

Greta Thunberg Ted Talk

https://www.ted.com/talks/greta_thunberg_the_disarming_case_to_act_right_now_on_climate?language=en#t-659958

“I’m just one person, what can I do”

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q48BvprCFr0>

“Students around the world go on climate strike”

- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oJ_QkjieLmw

Middle School Steps Up Climate Action with Climate Neutral Now

- <https://unfccc.int/news/middle-school-steps-up-climate-action-with-climate-neutral-now>

Articles

“Global Climate Strike: Meet the teenagers skipping school to fight for a greener planet”

- <https://www.cnn.com/2019/03/14/world/global-climate-strike-teenagers-school-walkout-greta-thunberg-intl/index.html>

“How teenage girls defied skeptics to build a new global climate movement”

- <https://edition.cnn.com/2019/02/13/uk/student-climate-strike-girls-gbr-scli-intl/index.htm>

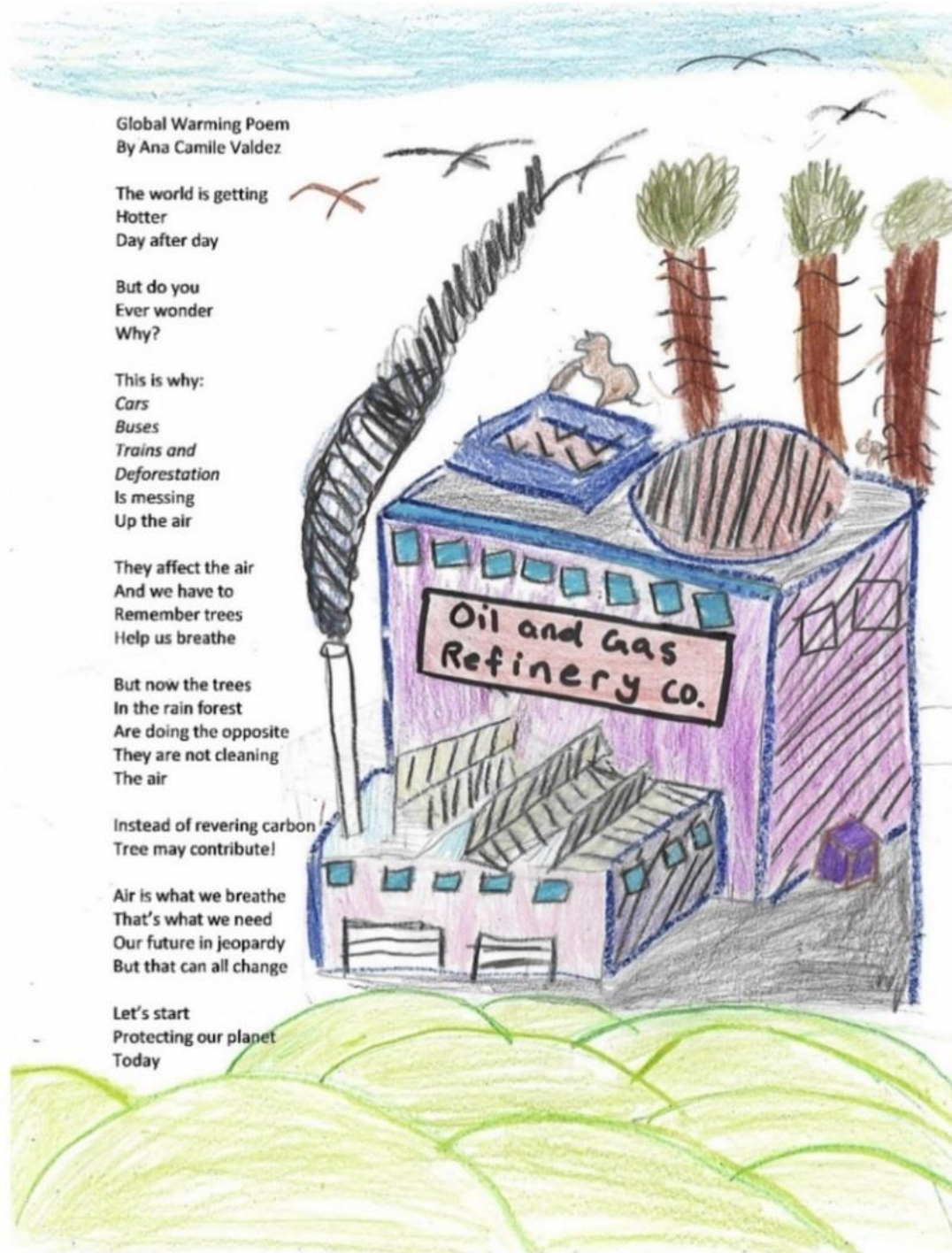
Past Year Example:

Fourth grader Ana Camile Valdez created this poem after hearing about a story The World did about climate change.

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Credit: Courtesy of Curtis Guild Elementary School



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In 2019, a class submitted their haikus for this contest. Here are some of the submissions that were displayed at the conference.

Untitled

By: Aldo A. Tinaco, 11th grade

the earth is dying and so are you
save the world
or we go boom

FACTS

By: Charlie Barton, 11th grade

The World Is on Fire
We Are Burning
We Are All Going to Die

Jack's Environmental Haiku

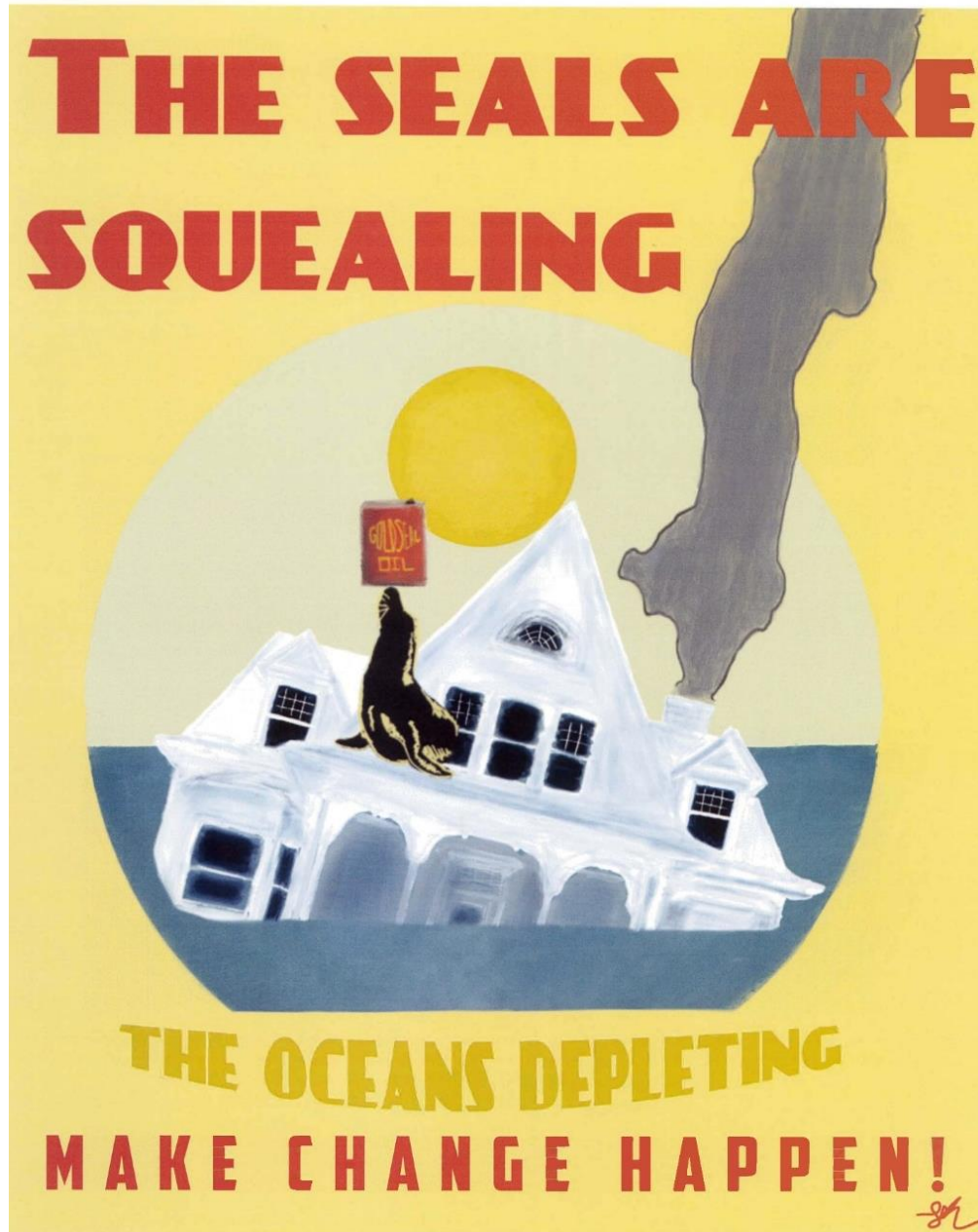
By: Jack Lynch, 11th grade

The planet is in danger
Changes must be made
The future relies on us.

The winner of the past contest was this incredible poster. The artist also sold prints at the conference.

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A note to parents and/or guardians:

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