



BCIA SCHOLARSHIPS 2023 Essay Writing Guide

This writing guide was produced to assist BCIA student members to develop their essays for submission to the BCIA Scholarship competition. Essays are submitted to BCIA and evaluated by the BCIA Communications Working Group (CWG).

Scholarship Question for 2023: *Over the past several decades, climate change has radically altered the natural dynamics of water. It has created extremes of water availability and management across all regions of the province and country. These new realities are having significant impacts on agriculture and natural resource management, and will continue to alter many areas of practice in our profession. Discuss an agrology area of practice that is being impacted or altered by changing water regimes. Additional considerations for the essay may include the potential gaps in the expertise and scope of practice within agrology to adequately and effectively address important water resource issues.*

Framework: The scholarship essay is intended to be an academic essay. Essays are designed to test and develop the participant's writing skills, comprehension of the topic, and creativity. Each participant is asked to write an essay that answers a specific topical question. Thus, all the submitted essays will address the same topic, and will be comparatively graded.

Essay length: The essay length should be between 750 - 900 words, excluding citations and notes.

Essay evaluation: Scholarship participants are encouraged to pay close attention to the assignment and to writing a proper academic essay. Members of the CWG will evaluate submitted essays using a standardized evaluation rubric. Essays will be evaluated primarily for content and idea development. As well, essays will be graded on format and presentation, structure, grammar and spelling, and references.

Format: Format and presentation are important elements of a well-organized essay. Line spacing, paragraph formatting, margins, and font type and size should be consistent throughout the essay.

Structure: How the ideas and arguments of an essay are structured and developed is important to a winning essay. Key elements should form a proper chronological order and should include the introduction and main thesis of the essay, three or more body paragraphs, each containing a unique idea, and a summary conclusion.

References: Is it important in an academic essay to use citations relevant to the essay topic. Citations and footnotes should be properly cited in the essay and included in a reference section at the end of the essay. The value and variety of references should be considered. For example, referencing only the BCIA



website is unlikely to provide enough information to write an award-winning essay. Plagiarism will result in immediate disqualification from all BCIA scholarship opportunities.

Grammar: Participants should pay close attention to grammar and spelling. Points will be lost for essays with grammatical and spelling errors.

Content and Idea Development: The scholarship essay addresses a specific topic related to agrology. Information presented in the essay should reflect a well-researched and methodical discussion of the selected topic. Thoughtful, logical development and flow of ideas in the essay should be compelling to the reader and help the reader understand the information being presented.