

# *2023 Workers' Memorial Day Scholarship Essay Contest*

*Sponsored by the CT AFL-CIO Health and Safety Committee*

Each year during Worker Memorial Day ceremonies on April 28<sup>th</sup>, 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, Connecticut high school seniors 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 is \$1,500**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Prize is \$1,000**

**3<sup>rd</sup> Prize is \$500**

All entries will be judged anonymously on content, originality and clarity of vision. The winners of this contest will be asked to share a portion of their essay during our 2023 Worker Memorial Day event on Friday, April 28, 2023, at 12 pm, at the Bushnell Park Worker Memorial.

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

- 1) Why do you think that there is a resurgence of union organizing within some worker groups such as Starbucks and Amazon employees? What health and safety concerns do you think that workers from these settings may have?
  
- 2) If you took a summer job on a construction site, in a supermarket or another job site, what sorts of things would you be on the lookout for to make you feel confident that you would come home safely from work each day? If you discovered things that you thought might be injurious, what would you do? Discuss with co-workers, supervisors? Post on social media? Contact OSHA? Explain your reasoning.
  
- 3) Do you think that safety and health at work is a concern to young workers who are high school, trade school or college students? If not, why? Should it be? Why?

This essay contest is open to all Connecticut high school seniors. Please email the completed essay and application to [pamela@ctcosh.org](mailto:pamela@ctcosh.org) or send to

ConnectiCOSH  
683 North Mountain Road  
Newington, CT 06111  
ATTN: Pamela Puchalski

The completed essay and application must be received by April 1, 2023,

## 2023 Worker Memorial Day Scholarship Essay Contest Application

Student's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Home or Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent(s)/guardian(s) name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

High School Name: \_\_\_\_\_

High School Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

