

**NJC Essay Contest 2018:**

- K-2: Illustrate your favorite experience with nature. The illustration should include the animals and plants that were part of this experience and the people you were with that made that experience memorable. Include a title that describes your experience, and, of course, your best art work.
- 3-4: Write a story describing your favorite experience with nature. Include a drawing of one or more species that helped to make that your favorite experience. Include the species' common and scientific names.
- 5-6: Parasitism is a common interaction in all ecosystems and has led to some interesting life histories among parasites and their hosts. Research a parasitic relationship that occurs locally, and write a story from the parasite's perspective about its life (e.g. from egg-adult). Include an illustration of the parasite at one or more of its stages of development. Label your illustration with the species common and scientific names.
- 7-8: Parasitism is a common interaction in all ecosystems and has led to some interesting life histories among parasites and their hosts. Research a parasite-host relationship that occurs locally, and write a story, from the host's perspective, that details how its life is altered by this parasitic relationship and adaptations that have allowed this species to survive despite the parasitic relationship. Include an illustration of the life stages at which the interaction between these species occurs. Label your illustration with the species' common and scientific names.

**K-2 Rubric:**

K-2: Illustrate your favorite experience with nature. The illustration should include the animals and plants that were part of this experience and the people you were with that made that experience memorable. Include a title that describes your experience, and, of course, your best art work.

Categories	3	2	1
Does the picture include	More than two species of plants present.	Two species of plants present.	One species of plant present.
Does the picture include	More than two species of animals present.	Two species of animals present.	One species of animal present.
Descriptive title?	Title describes multiple elements of the experience, included.	Title present and includes one element of the experience.	Title present but not descriptive.
Recognition of type of	Easy to determine the ecosystem represented.	Some clues provided that indicate the ecosystem represented.	Difficult to determine the ecosystem represented.
Representation of spe-	Species can be easily identified from the artwork.	Some species can be identified by the artwork.	Difficult to discern the identities of the species.
Effort/Neatness	All parts of the illustration show	Some parts of the illustration	Minimal evidence of organiza-

**3-4 Rubric:**

3-4: Write a story describing your favorite experience with nature. Include a drawing of one or more species that helped to make that your favorite experience. Include the species' common and scientific names.

Categories	3	2	1
Does the picture include	Picture includes enough detail that the species can be easily	Picture includes some detail, but it is difficult narrow down	Picture does not have enough detail to narrow down to a 3
Does the story contain accu-	Science/natural history in the story is 90% or more accurate.	Science/natural history in the story is 75%- 90% accurate.	Science/natural history is 50-75% accurate.
Story Mechanics (Grammar	Less than 10% of the story has errors in grammar and spelling	Story has grammar/spelling errors in 10-25% of the story.	Story has grammar/spelling errors in 25-50% of the story.
Scientific and Common	All present and accurate	Present but only partially accurate	Present with errors in all
Effort/Organization/Logic	All parts of the story show strong evidence of organiza-	Most parts of the story show evidence of organization, logic,	Minimal parts of the story show evidence of organization,
Effort/Neatness in picture	All parts of the illustration	Some parts of the illustration	Minimal evidence of organiza-

**5-6 Rubric:**

5-6: Parasitism is a common interaction in all ecosystems and has led to some interesting life histories among parasites and their hosts. Research a parasitic relationship that occurs locally, and write a story from the parasite’s perspective about its life (e.g. from egg-adult). Include an illustration of the parasite at one or more of its stages of development. Label your illustration with the species common and scientific names.

Category	3	2	1
Consistently written from	100% of story is written from the parasite’s perspective.	75%-99% of story is written from the parasite’s perspective.	50-75% of story is written from the parasite’s perspective.
Aspects of life cycle in-	100% of the parasite’s life cycle is detailed in the story.	75%-99% of parasite’s life cycle is detailed in the story.	50%-75% of parasite’s life cycle is detailed in the story.
Accurate natural history/	Science/natural history in the story is 90% or more accurate.	Science/natural history in the story is 75%- 90% accurate.	Science/natural history is 50-75% accurate.
Grammar/spelling	Less than 10% of the story has errors in grammar and spelling	Story has grammar/spelling errors in 10-25% of the story.	Story has grammar/spelling errors in 25-50% of the story.
Illustration	All parts of the illustration show evidence of organization, neat-	Some parts of the illustration show evidence of organization,	Minimal evidence of organiza-
Labels for Illustration	All present and accurate	Present but only partially accu-	Present with errors in all

**7-8 Rubric**

7-8: Parasitism is a common interaction in all ecosystems and has led to some interesting life histories among parasites and their hosts. Research a parasite-host relationship that occurs locally, and write a story, from the host’s perspective, that details how its life is altered by this parasitic relationship and adaptations that have allowed this species to survive despite the parasitic relationship. Include an illustration of the life stages at which the interaction between these species occurs. Label your illustration with the species’ common and scientific names.

Category	3	2	1
Host’s perspective	100% of story is written from the host’s perspective.	75%-99% of story is written from the host’s perspective.	50-75% of story is written from the host’s perspective.
Direct effects of parasite	3 or more effects are clearly explained.	2 effects are clearly explained; or, more than two effects are	1 effect is mentioned.
Adaptations of host to	3 or more adaptations that allow the host to survive the parasite	2 adaptations are clearly explained; or, more than two adap-	1 adaptation is mentioned.
Grammar/spelling	Less than 10% of the story has errors in grammar and spelling	Story has grammar/spelling errors in 10-25% of the story.	Story has grammar/spelling errors in 25-50% of the story.
Illustration	All parts of the illustration show evidence of organization, neat-	Some parts of the illustration show evidence of organization,	Minimal evidence of organiza-
Labels for illustration	All present and accurate	Present but only partially accu-	Present with errors in all