



Lamar University's Center for Midstream Management and Science
presents the
2024 CMMS Midstream Essay Contest

Aging Infrastructure in the Midstream Industry

Contest Overview

The 2023 CMMS Midstream Essay Contest is sponsored by the Center for Midstream Management and Science ("CMMS") at Lamar University in Beaumont, Texas.

Deadline for Submission

Entries must be submitted to CMMS via the U.S. Postal Service as first class mail or emailed by **11:59 pm CST on March 4, 2024**.

Contest Mission

Since its founding in late 2019 by the Texas legislature, CMMS has been building a presence in the midstream industry through (i) research designed to solve industry operating challenges, (ii) education of students, faculty, and industry, and (iii) serving as an information clearinghouse on matters relevant to the midstream industry. In a continuation of this work, CMMS is sponsoring the 2nd Annual CMMS Midstream Essay Contest for undergraduate and graduate students at 4-year, public universities in Texas who expect to be in good standing on March 4, 2024.

Prizes

The top three winners will receive:

1. 1st Place receives a cash prize of \$3,000
2. 2nd Place receives a cash prize of \$2,000
3. 3rd Place receives a cash prize of \$1,000

Sponsor

The CMMS Midstream Essay Contest is being conducted and administered by the Center for Midstream Management and Science at Lamar University, Beaumont, Texas. Judging will be conducted by a committee of academic and industry participants selected by CMMS.

The Assignment

The essay assignment is to present a view on **Aging Infrastructure in the Midstream Industry**. Generally, the midstream industry gathers, processes, transports via pipelines, and stores oil, natural gas, natural gas liquids (NGLs), and NGL fractionated products such as propane, ethane and butane. The midstream industry ultimately collects raw hydrocarbons from oil and gas fields (upstream) and delivers them to consumers, including refiners, petrochemical plants, heavy industry, and retail or residential consumers (downstream). The essay may address any aspect of America's aging midstream infrastructure and its impact or relevance to the midstream industry and American society, including, but not limited to the following topics:

- safety
- public good
- financial
- corporate structure
- corporate finance
- corporate behavior
- capital markets
- assets
- acquisition and divestment
- operations
- maintenance
- data acquisition and/or management
- engineering
- political dynamics
- NIMBY
- government policy
- government regulation
- societal desires and/or needs
- history
- ESG (Environmental, Social, Governance)
- human capital
- supply chain
- permitting
- intrastate issues
- interstate issues
- domestic or international issues

Contest Rules

Eligibility

The contest is open to undergraduate and graduate students attending 4-year, public universities in Texas who expect to be in good standing on March 4, 2024. Excluded from this contest are primary family members of employees of Lamar University. Only one essay may be submitted by each entrant. No co-authored essays will be accepted.

Essay Requirements

Entries should be written as scholarly essays. All entries must be prepared originally for this contest and must not be previously published in any format. Each entrant is required to assign to Lamar University all rights, titles, and interests in the submitted essay.

Essays should not exceed 800 words. Graphs, charts, and images may be incorporated into the text and will not be included in the word count. In computing the number of words, all articles and prepositions should be counted. Numbers and abbreviations should be counted as words. Footnotes and citations may be listed after the essay text and will not be included in the word count. The total number of words should be listed at the end of the essay.

Entrants may seek general feedback on their draft essays from professors, colleagues, and the like. An essay submitted to the competition, however, must be entirely the entrant's own work product and may not be written or edited by any other person. Any use of ChatGPT or similar AI or other software programs or unattributed work from third parties used in essay development is strictly prohibited and will result in entrant disqualification.

The essay should be typed, using Calibri 12 pt font, double-spaced on 8 ½" x 11" paper, with 1-inch margins.

Each entrant must complete, print, and sign the Competition Entry and Agreement form and transmit it along with the essay to CMMS by either email or U.S Postal Service per the instructions below.

Identification

The completed and signed Competition Entry and Agreement form should be submitted with the essay. For identification purposes, an entry number will be assigned on receipt of the entry, and the entrant will be advised of the number by email. No identification should appear on the essay other than the title of the essay. Only the essay will be shared with the judges to ensure objectivity in the judging process.

Judging

Essays will be judged by a committee designated by the Director of CMMS. The committee's decision is final and committee member names will not be made public. Prior to awards being made, CMMS will confirm that prospective winners are in good standing with their universities. Should it be determined that a prospective winner is not a student in good standing, that contestant will be disqualified.

The winning entries will contain an original discussion on the topic, will be substantively accurate, and will be grammatically correct, concise, well-reasoned, and clearly written. Entries will be judged on the following criteria: (i) writing quality, (ii) analysis and reasoning, (iii) originality, (iv) quality and use of research, and (v) compliance with these rules. If, in the judgment of the committee, no entry meets these conditions, CMMS reserves the right to award no prize. The decisions of the committee and CMMS are final.

How to Submit Entries

Paper Submissions

To submit a paper submission, contestants must complete, print, and sign the Competition Entry and Agreement form and send the completed form, along with two copies of the essay, to **Center for Midstream Management and Science, Lamar University, P.O. Box 10008, Beaumont, Texas 77710**. Paper submissions must be sent via U.S. Postal Service first-class mail and postmarked on or before March 4, 2024. The U.S. Postal Service postmark will define the mailing date for submission purposes.

Email

To email a submission, contestants must complete, print, and sign the Competition Entry and Agreement form and send the completed form in PDF format, along with a copy of the essay, to: midstreamcenter@lamar.edu. The essay should be in Word or PDF format. The submission must be submitted by 11:59 pm CST on March 4, 2024. The email timestamp will define the submission date and time.

Additional Information

For further information, please contact: midstreamcenter@lamar.edu