

**The Woman's Auxiliary to the American Institute of Mining,
Metallurgical, and Petroleum Engineers, Inc.**

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Minerals and Me – What is the Connection?

To honor Earth Day, April 22nd, and to celebrate the contributions of the global mining community, the WAAIME organization is pleased to announce the winners of the “Minerals and Me – What is the Connection?” Essay and Poem Contest. The winning students receive a commemorative coin, minted by the Society for Mining, Metallurgy, and Exploration and a prize of \$25.00. The students that entered the contest are nine to sixteen years old and come from communities across the United States and Mexico. Eighteen teachers with participating students won \$125 for earth science materials.

The forty winning essays will be featured in a booklet to be published by WAAIME. The judging panel consisted of upper level Mining Engineering students, student members of SME, directed by Dr. Michael Karmis, Chairman of the Mining Engineering Department at Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, Virginia. 320 students participated. Thank you to the judges: Kyle Apple, Richard Beauchamp, Paul Fritz, John Sidlowski, Sam Durnavich, Nichole Guyer, Michel Senft, Richard Bishop, Jeff Lines, Mark Luxbacher, Aaron Vassbinder, Tim Walston, Jason Davis, Corey Viers, Stefanie Self, Chris Ross, Dean Shaffer, and Dan Etnoyer. In addition, a thanks to WAAIME Carol Busick who did the facilitator work.

The WAAIME organization is best known for its many decades of awarding college scholarships to promising young men and women who major in the earth sciences. Our organization would like to remind all of you that:

“IF IT CANNOT BE GROWN, THEN IT MUST BE MINED”

We thank you for your time and consideration. The following pages contain some memorable quotes from the contestants.

Contact: Norman T. Odden, Office Administrator for WAAIME
3 Park Avenue, 17th Floor, New York, NY 10016-5998
Tel: 212-419-7673 Fax: 212-419-7680 E-mail: waaimeny@juno.com

Quotable Quotes from Minerals and Me -- What is the Connection?

Alejandra, age 14 of Germantown, Tennessee: *“Sulfate and Sulfide are forms of Sulfur...Radiant color yellow that captures my eyes.”*

Sean, age 14 of Germantown, Tennessee: *“Silver can and is used in many products, but I like it because it has an elegant metallic look.”*

Janay, age 12 of Columbia, Tennessee: *“Another interesting fact I discovered is that minerals give support for me to stand. Why do I say this? Because the earth’s land and oceans all rest on a layer of rock made of minerals.”*

Daniel, age 12 of Columbia, Tennessee: *“Iron is a mineral found in fruits and muscle meat, iron produces energy from our heads to our feet.”*

Jessica, age 13 of Spring Hill, Tennessee: *“To begin with, salt is the mineral I am using, there are many reasons that salt was my choosing. Napoleon’s troops died because wounds would not heal, the lack of salt caused this ordeal.”*

Steve, age 12 of Valley Grove, West Virginia: *“And it starts as raw Taconite, then it goes all the way to Bentonite. After that it goes to shipping, see ya, I ‘m going digging.”*

Beth, age 16 of Murfreesboro, Tennessee: *“As you can see, gold is not only a mineral for ornamentation, but has had significant impacts on history, technology, and science. The composition of this mineral causes it to be much sought after for a variety of uses.”*

Erica, age 15 of Smyrna, Tennessee: *“Minerals are all around us, no matter where you look, from planting a spring garden, to reading a good book.”*

Kathryn, age 14 of Murfreesboro, Tennessee: *“This mineral (the diamond) is the universal symbol of love; even more so than Cupid or a white dove. The Smithsonian has one of the largest on display; but it would look better in my room on a velvet tray.”*

Ashley, age 16 of Smyrna, Tennessee: *“I am an Opal; I come from the earth. My color is white, pale yellow or red. I am used as a gemstone, the birthday of October. The defraction of light can cause a play of colors.”*

Tyler, age 15 of Smyrna, Tennessee: *“Iron is also important for the industrial side of life. Iron was used for building tools and weapons around 1500 BC. during the Iron Age.”*

Emily age 16 of Atoka, Tennessee: *“Diamonds are minerals like gold, copper, and zinc. They come in all colors like clear, blue, or pink.”*

Courtney, age 15 of Brighton, Tennessee: *“Many minerals are important in our daily life, but one outshines the rest. It has numerous uses in all factions of life. Can this riddle be guessed? Minerals are vital, numerous beyond degree. Essential copper completes the connection between health, minerals, and me.”*

Danielle, age 15 of Brighton, Tennessee: *“The mineral salt is a great delight, on my French fries for dinner at night. Minerals and Me—what’s the connection? Point toward some salt and I’ll head that direction!”*

Jeane, age 14 of Atoka, Tennessee: *“Only about twenty percent of diamonds are fit for any kind of gem use. The other eighty percent mined are used as abrasives; as thermal insulators; in optics; and in electronics.”*

Tyler, age 15 of Brighton, Tennessee: *“From everything we use to everything we taste, we must learn only to use what we need, That’s the only way we will proceed. As the last thing I need to say we use them every day.”*

Zach, age 15 of Brighton, Tennessee: *“Minerals, minerals are all around, in the mountains and on the ground. There is a connection between us, we don’t want to lose, we need all the minerals, even some we don’t use.”*

Hunter, age 14 of Brighton, Tennessee: *“If you get a man a diamond drill bit then they will think they are invincible. They will try to drill though anything they can get their hands on.”*

Courtney, age 13 of Bolt West Virginia: *“Coal is very important to us in the 21st century. It is used constantly to heat homes, schools and buildings.”*

Anna, age 14 of Glen Daniel, West Virginia: *“Trains, pennies and coal miners, long and curving ribbons of iron, on a long trip from the ground. Twisting and winding through these mountains of my home.”*

Olga, age 10 of Bagdad, Arizona: *“I like malachite because it has a lot of different colors like apple green to dark gray. This old stone was sometimes made into bracelets and worn to protect people from sickness, lightning and witchcraft.”*

Corey, age 12 of Tennessee: *“Gold is dazzling, a hero in the mineral game, but gold will never go down in my Hall of Fame. Lead isn’t very pretty, but very useful to me. We never know how useful it could be!”*

Morgan, age 10 of Woodward, Oklahoma: *“Many people collect quartz, In jewelry and watches. Numerous uses in Everyday items such as Radios And computers. Long ago used by caveman in tools and weapons.”*

Farrah, age 10 of Woodward, Oklahoma: *“This element, silver, is an excellent conductor. Beware of sulfur, for if it’s in the air, it can make your silver as black as your nightmare.”*

Will, age 12 of Columbia, Tennessee: *“Copper is one of many minerals I use every day in my home. Copper is used in electrical wires in my home that make it possible for us to have lights, let the refrigerator work and help the stove to be able to provide heat to cook food on.”*

Donald, age 13 of Columbia, Tennessee: *“Minerals are minute amounts of metallic elements. Minerals do many different things for different parts of the body.”*

Joshua, age 10 of Millington, Tennessee: *“Not always on it’s own, iron likes to bond to stone. When mixed with other big boys, you can get a variety of alloys.”*

Michael, age 11 of Millington, Tennessee: *“Copper pipes don’t rust easily, that’s why we use them freely. Modern technology created copper wire, that’s why it is a technician’s desire.”*

Chris, age 11 of Millington, Tennessee: *“Gold is a reward for good work with a golden star and is the most prized reward for the Olympic athlete. Yet, as we age, man will cherish his ‘Golden Years’ to always remember he was ‘As Good as Gold’.”*

Christopher, age 13 of Millington, Tennessee: *“Did you know that if you were King Midas, you would have a cure for arthritis? If you covered blue jeans in a golden shell, they would never rust, and they would never smell.”*

Zachary, age 11 of Millington, Tennessee: *“When steel is coated with zinc, it is less likely to rust. Since things like bridges collapse when rusty, it is almost mandatory to coat steel with zinc.”*

Austin, age 11 of Cordova, Tennessee: *“You may not think minerals are all that great, but if you didn’t have them, you couldn’t eat off a plate. Light bulbs and batteries would all be forgotten, and we wouldn’t have clothes because there’d be no cotton.”*

Jason, age 14 of White Bluff, Tennessee: *“Platinum is rare, platinum is sweet, without Platinum we would be beat. Platinum is hard to find, platinum is expensive, and when it is in the light, I always lose my senses.”*

Lauren, age 11 of Brentwood, Tennessee: *“From the time I wake up in the morning, until the time I go to bed, I use a lot of different types of minerals. I use them in almost everything I do!”*

Zach, age 10 of Sophia, West Virginia: *“My great-grandfather, grandfather and dad all worked or work in the coal industry. Coal is responsible for many jobs in my state. Coal supplies the energy for 55 percent of the electricity and about one-fourth of the total energy in the United States.”*

Andrew, age 9 of Sophia, West Virginia: *“Iron ore is one of the most abundant elements on Earth. It has been held in higher esteem than gold, as well as being considered more useful. Iron ore is an integral part of our everyday lives.”*

William, age 9 of Coal City, West Virginia: *“The connection between me and coal is that coal gives me power. This power gives me lights and heat in my home. By letting me have power I get to watch TV and play my video games. So, altogether coal gives me a good life.”*

Nic, age 9 of Sophia, West Virginia: *“My Dad works inside a coal mine. Sometimes he tells me how they use the machines inside to dig the coal outside. My Mom tells me that she wears coal on her because they also use coal for make-up.”*

David, age 11 of Collierville, Tennessee: *“Our forefathers’ bullets were mostly lead. Without it, the British never would have fled. You can try to melt lead as best as you can do. But lead’s extremely hard to turn into goo.”*

Louie, age 10 of Collierville, Tennessee: *“Silver, oh, silver you make me quiver. Your color is going to make me shiver. Your streak is weird because it is metallic. You would probably turn black if I left you in my attic. Your symbol is Ag I know that from science. You can be used in an everyday appliance.”*