

SECME Essay Competition – Grades: – Pre-K – 2

Competition Description

The Essay Competition for students in Grades Pre-K - 2nd is an Illustration Competition that allows SECME coordinators to reinforce STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) skills through illustrations.

Students will choose a **topic** and create an **illustration**. They must also provide a **1 to 2-sentence caption** and record a **video** to explain their illustration.

Non-Fiction Topics

1. Earth and Space

Why do you only see the sun during the daytime? Where is the sun when you cannot see it?

2. Life Science

Describe the lifecycle of a butterfly. Explain what happens at each stage.

3. STEM Role Model

Who do you consider to be your STEM role model? It could be an inventor, an engineer, an architect, an artist, or anyone who has succeeded in the STEM industry. Why do you admire this individual? How did their story impact or inspire you on your journey in STEM?

Science-Fiction Topics

1. Technology

Cellphones, tablets, and computers have not been around forever. What would the world be like if they were never invented?

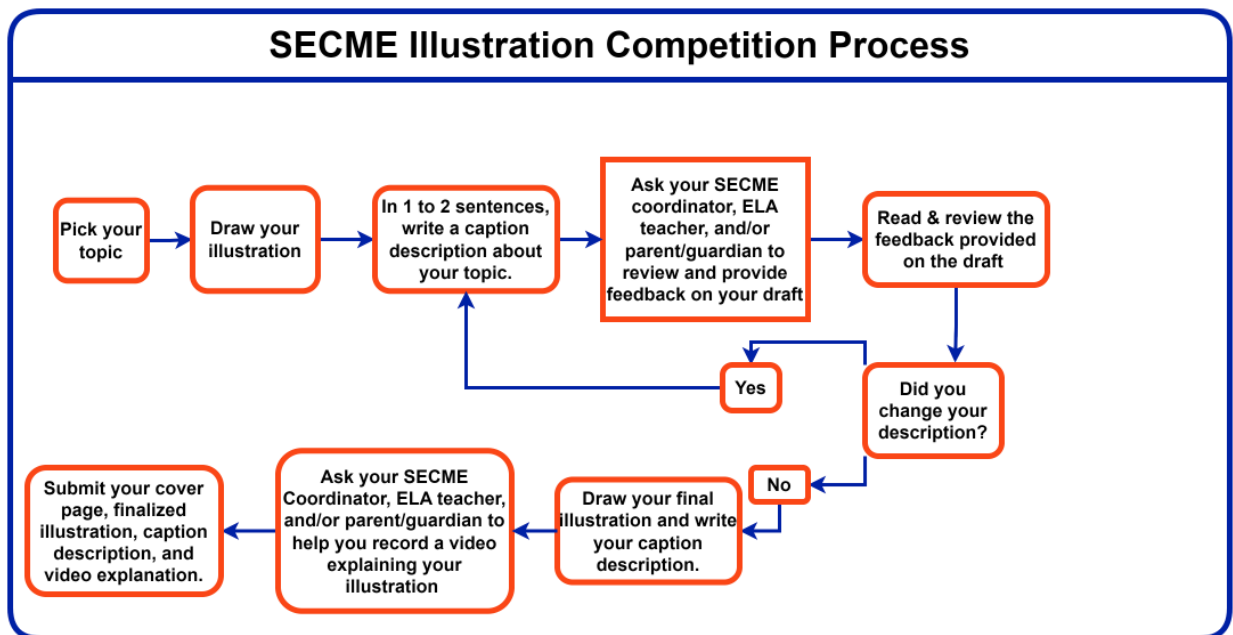
2. Earth and Space

An alien just landed in your backyard. How would you describe Earth to an alien from another planet?

Your parents just told you that you will be moving to the moon. Describe how your life would be different on the moon. What would you need to survive?

Process Map

1. Choose a topic from either the non-fiction or science-fiction list.
2. Create a hand-drawn illustration on paper based on your chosen topic.
3. Write one to two sentences caption describing the illustration.
4. Ask your SECME Coordinator, ELA teacher, and/or parent/guardian for feedback.
5. Revise based on the feedback, and if necessary, repeat, by going back to step 3 and repeat with changes.
6. Finalize illustration and caption description.
7. Collaborate with your SECME Coordinator, ELA teacher, and/or parent/guardian to help you record a video explaining your illustration.
8. Submit your cover page, finalized illustration, caption description, and video explanation.



Submission Requirements and Scoring

Submit a PDF file that includes your cover page, illustration, and a caption description with the file name "SECME_Illustration_PreK2_Your School Name," and submit a video in mp4 format that includes your video explaining your illustration and with the file name "SECME_Illustration_Video_PreK2_Your School Name."

1. Organization – 10%

- Cover Page – The student's cover page is required to have the following:
 - the SECME Student's Name and Grade
 - Competition Type
 - School Division
 - the SECME Student Chosen Topic
 - Official School Name
 - Official School District Name
 - School City and State
 - SECME Coordinator's Name and Email
- Paper Requirement: The student's illustration is required to be drawn on 8.5" × 11" paper, positioned either in portrait or landscape.

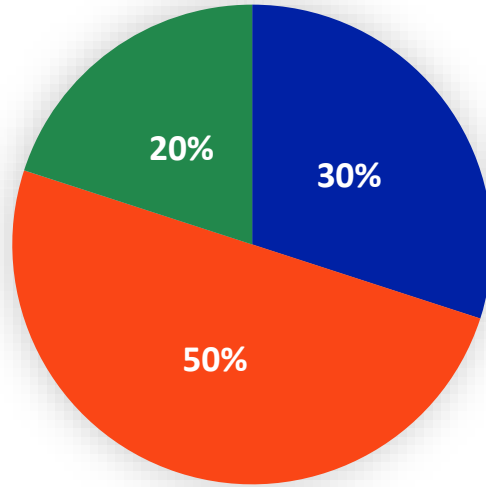
2. Content – 60%

- An original and hand-drawn Illustration
 - Is the student's illustration drawn by hand?
 - Does the illustration relate to the chosen topic or theme?
 - Does the illustration show creativity and imagination?
 - Is the artwork original and not copied from other sources?
 - Did the student use materials such as magazine clippings, newspaper clippings, crayons, markers, colored pencils, colored pens, or paint?
- Caption Description of the Illustration
 - Is the connection between the topic and the illustration clear?
 - Is the caption no longer than one to two sentences?

3. Video Explanation – 30%

- Video Explanation of the Illustration
 - Is the student's video within the four-minute (max) limit?
 - Can the student explain their thinking about why they picked this image to draw?
 - Can the student explain their thinking about how their image relates to the topic they picked?
 - Can the student explain why their drawing is unique or creative?

SECME Essay Competition - Grades PreK - 2nd Scoring



■ Organization ■ Content ■ Video Explanation