



Call for Entries! 2021 Opportunity4All Essay Competition Series

Topic #2 - Impact of Connectivity on Rural Communities

Submission Deadline: Monday, April 5, 2021

1st, 2nd, 3rd Prize Winners Announced: Friday, April 9, 2021 (*date pending*)

Sponsored by – Charter Communications

Coordinated by – UF/IFAS Extension, 4-H Youth Development

Essay Topic: Opportunity4All Essay #2 - Impact of Connectivity on Rural Communities

Technological innovations have greatly shaped agriculture throughout time. From the creation of the plow to the global positioning system (GPS) driven precision farming equipment, humans have developed new ways to make farming more efficient and grow more food. Agriculture is often high tech, ranchers, farmers and others use science and technology to collect data, analyze efficiency, monitor growth and quality, and more to save money and yield better crops. However, in order to access these technological advancements, ranchers and farmers need access to reliable, high-speed broadband.

In the first Opportunity4All essay, 4-H members across the state discussed the impact that technology and broadband issues have on Florida's rural and agricultural communities.

Building from that, please discuss the opportunities and challenges of equal and accessible broadband connectivity in small and rural communities. What challenges hinder deployment and how does connectivity enable technology that enhances the food and agricultural enterprise for all Floridians, resulting in greater food safety, increased efficiency for lower prices, and reduced environmental and ecological impacts?

Put on Your Thinking Cap! An essential judging criterion is the scope of research you put forth in developing the ideas behind your essay—accounting for 40% of your score. The number of sources consulted, the authority of the sources and the variety of the sources are all evaluated. Personal interviews with elected leaders, farmers, ranchers, small business owners, seniors and others familiar with the subject are valued sources of information and should be documented.

Eligibility: The 2021 Opportunity4All Essay Competition series is open to active 4-H members only. Entered essays must encompass the designated topic only. There will be no exceptions. This competition is open to all 4-H youth regardless of participation in the first competition.

Competition Rules & Essay Requirements: Any 4-H member interested in writing an essay should contact their local Extension office for competition details. Failure to meet any one of the essay requirements will result in disqualification.

- Essay requirements for 4-H judging:
 - Essay must be computer-generated and formatted following standard manuscript format using double-spaced type and 12pt font in legible font face.
 - Essay must encompass the designated topic in 750 to 1,000 words. Word count does not include sources, works cited or the writer’s biographical statement.
 - All factual statements and interview references must be cited in a “sources” or “bibliography” list.
 - Essays will be judged on (a) scope of research, 40%; (b) accuracy, 30%; (c) creativity, 10%; (d) conciseness, 10%; and (e) logical development of the topic, 10%.
 - On a separate page, please include a brief biographical statement of the writer including mailing address, email address and phone number.
- Deadline for submission: **April 5, 2021**
- Top placing entries invited to *Real Rural Tech Talk Roundtable*: **April 9, 2021**
- 1st, 2nd, 3rd place entries will be announced: **April 9, 2021 (date pending)**

Entries may be submitted for judging via the following link – [SUBMIT ENTRIES](#).

Decisions made by Charter Communications and UF/IFAS Extension, 4-H Youth Development during judging are final. All competition entries become the property of Charter Communications and UF/IFAS Extension, 4-H Youth Development and may be used as they see fit.

By submitting an essay, participants are agreeing to allow Charter Communications or their assignees to record and photograph their image and/or voice for use in research, educational and promotional programs. These audio, video, and image recordings become shared property of Charter Communications and UF/IFAS Extension, 4-H Youth Development.

Awards:

Three cash prizes will be awarded by Charter Spectrum in the Opportunity4All Essay Competition. The author of the highest scoring essay will win first prize. The author of the second-highest scoring essay will win second prize. The author of the third-highest scoring essay will win third prize.

- First Prize: \$750
- Second Prize: \$500
- Third Prize: \$250

The three prize-winning essays will also be awarded a Chromebook and an opportunity to present/record their winning essay to be presented/featured on Friday April 9, 2021 (*date pending*) at *A Real Rural Tech Talk Roundtable* event hosted at 4-H Escambia County 4-H Livestock Facility located at 5701 Hwy 99, Molino, FL 32577.

Questions? Contact the UF/IFAS Extension, 4-H Youth Development Contest Coordinator at 4hcontests@ifas.ufl.edu.