



# IMUA 2023 Scholarship Program Student Guidelines & Questions

**Program Purposes:** To promote and recognize scholastic achievement and to demonstrate the advantages of, and the issues faced by, municipally-owned and operated utilities.

**Eligibility and Guidelines:** Only high school seniors whose parents or legal guardians are residential customers of an IMUA member utility may submit written essays to win a \$1,000 scholarship.

**(Note:** IMUA scholarships **are not available** to the employees, staff or immediate family members of the IMUA, IMEA and IPEA, or to the immediate family members of the Board of Directors of these organizations, nor to immediate family members of those individuals who serve on the IMUA Scholarship Judging Panel and Committee.)

1. Students must complete the enclosed application and submit, along with a photocopy of their transcripts, an essay of 500 words or less, typewritten and double-spaced, with the following information included on the cover:
  - Student's first and last name, home address, phone number and e-mail address.
2. Essay should **NOT** mention the student's hometown or hometown utility by name.
3. Sources of information regarding municipal utilities and utility-related issues can be found in the reference section of your library, periodicals, the Internet or individuals employed by your local municipal utility. Search phrases might include: *municipal utility; local ownership; municipalization; public power; public gas system; utility deregulation; Public Utility Holding Company Act (PUHCA); public interest; and, municipal utility rates.* There are many other sources as well. The following websites and sources may also be useful obtaining information helpful in writing your essay:
  - American Public Power Association ([www.publicpower.org](http://www.publicpower.org))
  - American Public Gas Association ([www.apga.org](http://www.apga.org))
  - Illinois Municipal Electric Agency ([www.imea.org](http://www.imea.org))
  - Illinois Municipal Utilities Association ([www.imea.org](http://www.imea.org), then click on the "IMUA link)
  - Illinois Public Energy Agency ([www.imea.org](http://www.imea.org), then click on the "IPEA link)
  - Energy Information Administration ([www.eia.gov](http://www.eia.gov))
  - Your local municipal utility superintendent
  - American Water Works Association (AWWA) ([www.awwa.org](http://www.awwa.org))
  - Illinois Rural Water Association (ILRWA) ([www.ilrwa](http://www.ilrwa))

4. Essays **MUST** address your choice of any one of the following two (2) issues/questions:

**Electric Vehicles (EVs)**

*Q. Supporters of electric vehicles (EVs) claim that EVs can save businesses both fuel and maintenance costs. Do you agree, and if so, explain why? What do you see as the advantages and disadvantages of EVs? If you owned and operated your own delivery business, what particular brand of electric vehicle would you buy for your fleet, and why?*

**Benefits of Public Power**

*Q. Public power has many distinct characteristics (compared to investor-owned utilities and rural electric cooperatives) that directly and indirectly benefit consumers and contribute to community progress and economic development. What are some of these many benefits, and how do you see them contributing to your community's betterment, including its quality of life? Please cite specific examples.*

5. The deadline for submitting written essays is **Friday, March 10, 2023**. Please send your essay, transcripts and completed application to the address listed on the bottom of the application.
6. A total of **four (4) finalists** will be chosen by the IMUA Scholarship Committee. Each finalist will receive a finalist certificate and a \$1,000 award from IMUA. **Winners will be announced sometime in April.**

**GOOD LUCK!**