



## **Ramadan Earth Day Essay Contest**

**Essay Prompt:** One of the biggest catastrophes currently facing our planet is the environmental crisis and poor stewardship from humanity. Islam teaches Muslims about the importance of taking care of the earth as part of:

- 1- a trust from Allah SWT
- 2- a test of what it means to be a good human being.

Write an essay on the *spiritual* and *social* importance of taking care of the environment from an Islamic perspective. **How** does taking care of the environment reflect on our overall obligations as Muslims to be good stewards for humanity? **How** does taking care of the environment reflect on other aspects of social justice? **How** does poor environmental practice affect Muslims? Make an argument for **why** the Muslim community **must** make it a priority to fight for environmental justice using examples from our religion and current events. Lastly, **how** should the Muslim community fight for environmental justice? (Maximum word limit: 2,500 words)

**Due Date:** April 16th, by 11:59 PM

**Essay Submission:** <https://forms.gle/WVUHCAzjpusLc2M37>

**Goal:** The purpose of this essay is for you to think about current crises that exist in our world and to engage with the Islamic tradition as sources of solutions. This essay serves as both an intellectual and spiritual exercise. Additionally, this essay should allow you to develop and strengthen your writing skills as you learn to cite adequate and specific examples to build an argument. Please be sure to get your essay proofread by a parent, guardian, sibling, or tutor before submitting. Additionally, this essay will require you to collect research on religious sources that should be verified with a religious authority. The authority figure can be a parent/guardian, Islamic teacher, or your Imam at the local masjid.



**In your essay, be sure to:**

- Include Islamic sources (can be from the Qur'an, ahadith, prophetic examples, etc.)
- Address the environmental issues that we are facing as a society
- Discuss what environmental justice is and define any terms that are not commonly known to the average person
- Answer all parts of the prompt
- Include adequate examples to support your argument
- Proofread, edit, and revise
- Your essay must have a title
- Your essay must include page numbers
- Be sure to double space your essay
- Use New York Times 12 pt. Font
- Use MLA format to cite sources (mandatory for college students)
- High school students may submit a bibliography in place of an MLA Citations page