

**Onondaga Citizens League**  
**STUDENT CREATIVE EXPRESSIONS CHALLENGE**

***“What Does It Mean To Be Green in CNY?”***

The [Onondaga Citizens League](#) has announced its first ever Creative Expressions Challenge. High School students are encouraged to submit expressions of their response to the question ***“What Does It Mean to Be Green in Central New York?”*** OCL is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization that studies a critical community issue each year. This year’s study topic addresses what defines an environmentally sustainable community, and what is needed to establish Central New York as a “green” community.

**40** years ago ago, the environment emerged as a public issue in response to the increasing dangers of air and water pollution. In recent years, the environment has stormed back into public consciousness—this time because of worldwide scientific consensus on the potentially catastrophic effects of climate change, concern over the depletion of natural resources and nonrenewable energy sources, and growing recognition that the choices we make today will determine the quality of life for those generations yet to come. ***How can we in Central New York contribute to a greener, more sustainable future?***

**Who is Eligible?**

- Any high school student, or group of high school students, in Central New York.

**What Types of Submissions are Eligible?**

- Original work in any creative medium including essay, poetry, video, visual arts (painting, drawing, photography, sculpture) or music that expresses a perspective on *“What Does It Mean to Be Green?”*
- Essays must not exceed *500 words*. Videos and music must not exceed *3 minutes* in length.
- Entries must be submitted electronically and are limited to one per person or per group.
- Previously published material is not eligible.

**How Do I Submit an Entry?**

- Entries, or photographs of three-dimensional entries, must be emailed to [ocl@syr.edu](mailto:ocl@syr.edu) by **Monday, May 14, 2010 at 5:00 p.m.**

**Who are the Judges and What are the Criteria?**

- Judges include members of the Onondaga Citizens League Board of Directors and the OCL Study Committee, plus other selected experts.
- Judging will be done anonymously – the judges will not be aware of the identities of the submitters.
- Judges will consider the overall creativity of each entry, the quality of expression and how well the entry exemplifies the theme of *“What Does It Mean to Be Green?”*

**How Many Submissions are Chosen for Recognition?**

- Depending on the number and types of submissions, at least three will be selected for inclusion in the *“What Does It Mean to Be Green?”* report on the OCL website and/or the print version of the report.
- Entries selected will be recognized in the Teen Voices section of The Post-Standard and the GreenCNY blog on Syracuse.com.
- By participating, entrants agree to allow the OCL to use their names and their work in conjunction with the OCL study and to post their work on the OCL and [syracuse.com](http://syracuse.com) websites.

**Submission deadline is May 14<sup>th</sup>. If you have any questions, contact [ocl@syr.edu](mailto:ocl@syr.edu) or call (315)-443-4846 or visit <http://onondagacitizensleague.org>.**