



## 2025 CBMP Midstream Essay Contest

### ***"The Future of the Midstream Industry"***

#### Contest Overview

The 2025 CBMP Midstream Essay Contest is sponsored by the Coastal Bend Midstream Program at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi (TAMU-CC) in Corpus Christi, Texas. The contest essay topic is *"The Future of the Midstream Industry."* It is generally open to all undergraduate and graduate students at public four-year universities in Texas.

#### Deadline for Submission

Entries must be submitted to CBMP via email by **11:59 pm CST on November 15th, 2025**. Submissions in breach of the deadline requirement will not be considered.

#### Prizes

The top three winners of the 2025 CBMP Midstream Essay Contest will receive:

1. 1<sup>st</sup> Place receives \$3,000
2. 2<sup>nd</sup> Place receives \$2,000
3. 3<sup>rd</sup> Place receives \$1,000

#### The Assignment

The essay assignment is to present a view on **any aspect of, or issue facing, the midstream industry in the future.**

Generally, the midstream industry gathers, processes, transports via pipelines and LNG terminals, and stores oil, natural gas, natural gas liquids (NGLs), and NGL fractionated products such as propane, ethane, and butane. The midstream industry ultimately collects raw hydrocarbons from oil and gas fields (upstream) and delivers them to consumers, including refiners, petrochemical plants, heavy industry, and retail or residential consumers (downstream).

The essay may address any aspect of America's midstream industry and infrastructure from any perspective and its impact or relevance to the midstream industry or American society, including, but not limited to, the following topics:

- financial
- corporate structure
- corporate finance
- corporate behavior
- capital markets
- assets/infrastructure
- mergers and acquisitions
- operations
- maintenance
- data acquisition and/or management
- new technologies
- engineering
- political dynamics
- NIMBY
- government policy
- government regulation
- societal preferences and/or needs
- history
- ESG (Environmental, Social, Governance)
- human capital
- supply chain
- permitting
- intrastate and interstate issues
- domestic or international issues

## **Contest Rules**

### **Eligibility**

The contest is open to students who are currently undergraduate and graduate students attending a four-year, public university in Texas and expect to be students in good standing at their current universities on January 31, 2026. Excluded from this contest are primary family members of employees of TAMU-CC. Only one essay may be submitted by each entrant. No co-authored essays will be accepted.

### **Essay Requirements**

Entries should be written as scholarly essays. All entries must be prepared originally for this contest and must not be previously published in any format. Each entrant is required to assign to TAMU-CC all rights, title, and interest in the essay submitted.

Essays may not exceed 800 words. Graphs, charts, and images may be incorporated into the text and will not be included in the word count. In computing the number of words, all articles and prepositions should be counted. Numbers and abbreviations should be counted as words. Footnotes and citations should not be included in the body of the essay, will not be included in the word count, and should be listed on an addendum page. The total number of words should be listed at the end of the essay.

Entrants may seek general feedback on their draft essays from professors, colleagues, and the like. An essay submitted to the competition, however, must be entirely the entrant's own work product and may not be written or edited by any other person. **Any use of ChatGPT or similar AI or other software programs or unattributed work from third parties used in essay development is strictly prohibited and will result in entrant disqualification.**

The essay should be typed, using Calibri 12 pt font.

Each entrant must complete, print, and sign the Competition Entry and Agreement form and transmit it along with the essay to CBMP by email per instructions below.

## Identification

The completed and signed Competition Entry and Agreement form should be submitted with the essay. For identification purposes, an entry number will be assigned on receipt of the entry, and the entrant will be advised of the number by email. No identification should appear on the essay other than the title of the essay. Only the essay will be shared with the judges to ensure objectivity in the judging process.

## Judging

Essays will be judged by a committee designated by CBMP. The committee's decision is final, and committee member names will not be made public. Before awards are made, CBMP will confirm that prospective winners are in good standing with their universities. Should it be determined that a prospective winner is not a student in good standing, that contestant will be disqualified and replaced by CBMP based on committee advice.

The winning entries will contain an original discussion on the topic, will be substantively accurate, and will be grammatically correct, concise, well-reasoned, and clearly written. Entries will be judged on the following criteria: (i) writing quality, (ii) analysis and reasoning, (iii) originality, (iv) quality and use of research, and (v) compliance with these rules. If, in the judgment of the committee, no entry meets these conditions, CBMP reserves the right to award no prize. The decisions of the committee and CBMP are final.

CBMP expects to announce essay contest winners by 5:00 p.m., January 30<sup>th</sup>. Awards shall be made soon thereafter.

## How to Submit Entries

### Email

To email a submission, contestants must complete, print, and sign the Competition Entry and Agreement form and send the completed form in **PDF format**, along with a copy of the essay in **MS Word format**, to: [cbmp@tamucc.edu](mailto:cbmp@tamucc.edu). The essay file should not exceed 2.5MB. The submission must be submitted by 11:59 pm CST on November 15, 2025. The email timestamp will define the submission date and time.

## Additional Information

For further information, please contact: [cbmp@tamucc.edu](mailto:cbmp@tamucc.edu)