2019 Technology Awareness Day Essay Contest Rules

Contest Rules:

The essay must be:

- An original, unpublished work. Essays deemed not original work will be disqualified.
- Include a cover page with: student's name, school, program, and grade.
- Word Count for 9th/10th graders: At least 350 words
- Word Count for 11th/12th graders: At least 500 words
- Double-spaced, 12-point font
- Bibliography is **not** included in the word count
- Contestants should proofread entries for spelling and grammar errors.

Regarding sources:

- It is recommended that you support your arguments with qualified sources.
- Use direct quotes when taking a source word for word. Use MLA style in-text citations and bibliography entries.
- Don't focus on strict adherence to MLA – the important thing is that we know which parts of your essay are from an outside source, and where we can find that source.

Contestants will be competing in one of two groups: 9/10th graders and the 11/12th graders. The top three contestants from each group will be recognized and awarded prizes at Technology Awareness Day on **February 16th, 2019**. Prizes have not been confirmed but typically include laptops and tablets.

Essay Topic 9th/10th graders

Students with degrees in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) represent only 5.6% of U.S. college graduates, compared to 46.7% of degrees earned in China. This discrepancy is often pointed to as a threat to U.S. global competitiveness.

However, recently emphasis is again on Arts education as a critical component of a well-rounded education. This is reflected in the 2019 Technology Awareness Day theme, *STEAM Forward*, which includes Science, Technology, Engineering, *Arts*, and Math.

With the inclusion of Art, the remaining STEM subjects will undoubtedly receive even less resources dedicated to them. Write about your take on the inclusion of Arts. Is it important to include? What are some ways that Arts education may overlap with STEM subjects?

Infographic Cited:
https://www.americansforthearts.org/sites/default/files/UF-MAAE-STEM-STEAM-IG-GIRL.pdf

Essay Topic 11th/12th graders
During TAD, you will learn about a variety of careers in the area of technology. However, many jobs in technology are so new that they didn't exist when the jobholder was in high school. The labor market is constantly changing and it's nearly impossible to predict what technical skills will be in demand in the future.

What types of completely new jobs do you foresee in the next 10-20 years? What are some ways you can "future-proof" your skill-set to stay relevant to these emerging trends? How will you use STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math) education to achieve this?

Submission Details:
C.T.E. and Upward Bound coordinators: please send the contest entries to the Financial Aid Committee Chair at BNSF Railway, Bryan Frank, via email: bryan.frank@bnsf.com.
Deadline: Entries must be received from the designated C.T.E. or Upward Bound Coordinator no later than **January 29th, 2019**.
For questions contact Bryan Frank at bryan.frank@bnsf.com.