

You Write It

We did the interview. We wrote the headline. *You* write the article.

YOUR TASK:

1. Read our interview.
2. Choose a central idea for your article.
3. Write a three-paragraph article about Steven in your own words. Use quotes from our interview.



How I'm Saving My State

Scope: Tell us about your science project.

Steven: I needed a subject for my freshman-year science project, and I wanted to focus on a current event that was affecting my community. In California, we are suffering through the fourth year of one of the most severe droughts in our state's recorded history. I decided to design a project that would help.

Scope: What exactly is a drought?

Steven: A drought is when there is not enough rainfall to supply fresh water for everyone. In some counties, people have no water and they have to get it delivered in bottles. In others, you're limited to 50 gallons a day, and that is for everything—showering, laundry, cooking, and dishwashing. Droughts can also make wildfires worse. Right now, just miles from my home, neighborhoods are burning to the ground.

Scope: So you invented WaterFence. How does it work?

Steven: WaterFence is a fence made up of water storage tanks. It's meant to be used in place of a regular fence around a house. When rain falls on the roof of a house, it flows through rain gutters and into the tanks. This water can be used for watering lawns and flushing toilets. People can also filter the water and use it for cooking, showering, and even drinking.

Scope: How did you come up with the idea?

Steven: I wanted to help people store as much fresh water as possible. The storage products available in stores are too big, hard to move, and impossible to fill. I jokingly said to my dad, "Well, maybe I have to invent something." Then one day I was walking around my neighborhood and I realized every house has the same three things: a roof, a gutter, and a fence. I thought, *What if the fence could store rainwater?* I did the math and realized that the fence in my yard could hold thousands of gallons. I worked from that idea and built a model of WaterFence.

Scope: You won your school science fair and several awards. Is your fence for sale in stores?

Steven: We just finished our first installation, at my house, and WaterFence will be available for sale soon!

Scope: What advice would you give teens who have an idea for an invention?

Steven: People congratulate me on being a genius, but I'm not. I'm just a teenager who acted on his idea. I encourage anybody with an idea that can help even just one person to follow through with it; you never know what will happen.

Now you write the article!

YOU WRITE IT CONTEST

Send your article to **You Write It Contest**. Three winners will each get a \$25 Visa gift card. Entries will be judged on: **1.** a clear central idea and supporting evidence, **2.** organization, **3.** use of quotations, and **4.** grammar. See page 2 for details.