Clean Water Poster and Video Contest – Suggested Teacher Curriculum Guide:

Teachers - Please alert your students to the global water crisis. As we all know, water is our most precious resource. It is important not only in Oklahoma, but around the world.

- Only about 2.5 percent of the world’s water is fresh water; the rest is too salty to drink.
- Less than 1 percent of the world’s fresh water (or about 0.008 percent of all water on earth) is readily accessible for direct human use.
- More than 3.4 million people, mostly children, die from water-related illnesses every year--that’s 10,000 people each and every day, or 400 people each and every hour!
- Roughly 800 million people, nearly one in nine people of the world’s population, do not have access to an improved source of drinking water.
- Nearly 2.5 billion people do not have adequate sanitation.
- Diarrhea, mainly due to poor sanitation and contaminated drinking water, kills more young children than AIDS, malaria and measles combined.
- Clean water is a gender equity issue. The time-consuming task of fetching water is often left up to women and young girls. In just one day, women commit more than 200 million hours to the most basic of human needs—collecting water for domestic use. These hours could be spent in attending school or doing other productive work.
- Almost one-tenth of the global disease burden could be prevented by improving water supplies.
- An American taking a five-minute shower uses more water than a typical person in a developing country uses in an entire day.

The OU WaTER Center was developed to meet a growing need for university-based programs with the personnel and abilities to play a key part in the international water supply and sanitation scene through the development and transfer of appropriate and sustainable water and sanitation solutions. To be sustainable, interventions must be culturally appropriate, economically viable and holistic, including public awareness and behavior change efforts and quantitative assessment of pre- and post-intervention conditions. The goal of the WaTER Center is to promote peace by advancing health, education and economic development through sustainable water and sanitation solutions for impoverished regions, using innovative teaching, research and service / leadership activities, including K-12 educational activities. See http://WaTER.ou.edu for more details.