

# Essay Competition Guidance Document

*An essay needs an introduction, conclusion, and a main body consisting of individual paragraphs that fully elaborate on each point.*

## - An introductory paragraph should:

1. Identify the key words in the question and define them
2. Demonstrate an understanding of the question
3. Summarise your final argument clearly and anticipate the main points

## - An effective conclusion paragraph should:

1. Summarise important aspects of your argument
2. Refer to the question to show that it has been answered
3. Include a conclusive, critical argument to end the essay.

## Referencing

This essay requires referencing, with Harvard Referencing being the preferred style (in-text citation).

There are many online resources ([myBib](#), [Zotero](#)) that can reference for you. However, we strongly advise you to attempt manual referencing.

When directly quoting from a source, use quotation marks and include a citation. If indirectly quoting, make sure this is clear and use a citation. Ensure you have consistently used the same referencing style throughout.

[Here](#) you can find a quick guide to Harvard referencing by the Warwick Library which contains case-by-case referencing tips!

## Tips and Tricks

- Take time to carefully analyse and understand the question to ensure your piece of work directly responds to the requirements.

- Identify:
  1. The subject matter/topic
  2. The specific focus
  3. The point of view expressed or being questioned
- Use a range of sources to show the breadth of your argument

- Make sure you evaluate the evidence/sources/reading you use in detail

- Why are certain arguments successful?
- What evidence do they use?
- What are the strengths and weaknesses to this argument, or challenges to this point of view?
- What is your perspective on the topic?

- Don't forget to be creative. As much as this is an academic piece of work, we want to hear your voice and get a good understanding of your point of view.

## Plagiarism

Copying and plagiarism is strongly discouraged, and you will be disqualified if found out. If using a source or text, make sure you reference correctly and highlight their importance to your argument. Plagiarism is the act of presenting someone else's idea as your own.

### *Copy-pasting is a big no-no!*

There are many types of plagiarism, so make sure you are aware of them. Here are the most common ones:

1. Direct Plagiarism: Specific sections or paragraphs of your essay is directly copied from another source or text without give credit
2. Paraphrasing Plagiarism: Yes, even if you change the words here and there, it is still plagiarism. Even if you are taking someone's ideas and producing it in your own words it is plagiarism.
3. Self-plagiarism: Reusing content from an essay you've already written for a new essay is called self-plagiarism. Make sure all your ideas and words are new and not copied from your previous works.

Essays written by generative AI will be disqualified. While we recognise that artificial intelligence is a useful tool, the purpose of this competition is to showcase **your voice** and **your ideas**, so make sure they shine through.

*Other than these tips, good luck and we look forward to reading your essay!*