

Guidelines for Essay Competition 2023 for Secondary School Students of Grade 10

The Ministry of Environment, Solid Waste Management and Climate Change in collaboration with the Ministry of Education, Tertiary Education, Science and Technology is inviting all secondary school students of Grade 10 in Mauritius to participate in an essay competition.

● Criteria for participation

- **Eligibility:** Open to all **Grade 10** students (State, private grant-aided and private fee-paying secondary schools)
- **Participation:** Only one (1) submission per student (*Group submission will not be accepted*)
Maximum submission by school: 5 entries
(*Each secondary school must select and submit 5 best entries*)

● Instructions to participants

- **Deadline for submission:** 24 February 2023
- **Theme/Topic:** Any one (1) topic on environmental issues in the proposed list at Annex 1
- **Language:** English
- **Number of words:** 500-800 words
- **Format:** Font:Times New Roman, Size:12, Line spacing:1.5, Justified and inserting page number

The essay submitted should conform to the following rules as to content, length and style:

- The essay should begin with a cover page including the title of the essay and word count.
- References should be included at the end of the essay in any desired reference style. (*Note: the references should not be included in the word count*).

● Submission process

- The essay should be submitted along with a duly filled-in participation form in:
 - ⇒ one (1) hard copy, indicating page number and bearing the student's initial in all pages; **and**
 - ⇒ one (1) soft copy in CD - either Word (or equivalent) or PDF format

IMPORTANT NOTE:

The essay submitted must be not bear any names of the participant nor his/ her school details. All personal information of the participant should be submitted in their participation form. Same can be downloaded from the website of the Ministry of Environment, Solid Waste Management and Climate Change (<https://environment.govmu.org>)

● **Phases in the competition**

- ⇒ Submission of essays by students to Head of Schools: **24 February 2023**
- ⇒ Submission of essays by all of Head of Schools (State, private grant-aided and private fee-paying secondary schools) to Education Zone Directorates: **by latest 03 March 2023**
- ⇒ *Arrangements will be made by the Ministry of Environment to collect the entries from the different Zone Directorates.*
- ⇒ Assessment of essays: **March- April 2023**
- ⇒ Announcement of selected nominees: **Around end of April 2023**
- ⇒ Announcement of 3 winners per Educational Zone and Award Ceremony: **Around start of June 2023**

● **Prizes**

Students: 3 Cash Prizes per Educational Zone

- 1st prize- Rs 15,000
- 2nd prize- Rs 10,000
- 3rd prize- Rs 8,000

- Certificates of participation will be awarded to those participants having satisfied the minimum criteria.

Schools: A shield will be awarded to the secondary institutions of the 12 finalists.

● **Conditions of participation**

- The essay must be written in the author's (student) own words. Essays will be checked against plagiarism. A similarity score of above 20% will be penalised.
- The essays must not contain any allegations or defamation against any character or organisation.
- The participant's work should not have been published/broadcast by a registered and/or authorized broadcast company, newspaper, blogs, radio station, television station or agency or carried on an online of a registered and/or authorized agency.
- The decision of the Jury Panel shall be final and irrevocable.
- The Ministry reserves the right not to award a prize in any of the essays if the entries do not satisfactorily meet the competition requirements.
- The Ministry reserves the right to publish the best essays for information and educational purposes on the website of the Ministry of Environment, whilst acknowledging the schools and the authors.

For further queries, please contact officers of the Ministry of Environment, Solid Waste Management and Climate Change (Information & Education Division) on Tel : 203 6200 / 57085729

Annex 1- Essay titles:

Plastic

1. Plastic will be the main ingredient of all our grandchildren's recipes. What are your views?
2. Plastic is the most destructive weapon, even more than the nuclear bomb or the atom bomb, and its impact remains for centuries on the future generation. Discuss.

Ecotourism

3. Discuss how the local communities can benefit from ecotourism.
4. Sustainability in the hospitality industry should be a country's top priority. How far do you agree?

Sustainable production and consumption

5. The use of solar energy (renewable source) is as a means to reduce environmental damage. How far do you agree?
6. Discuss how urbanism is destroying the environment and what could be its solutions.
7. Discuss the importance of plant conservation for human survival.

Climate Change

8. If climate change advances at the same pace, what will be the fate of humanity?
9. Discuss the consequences of ozone layer depletion in the stratosphere.

Environmental education and awareness

10. What are your views on the importance of environmental literacy in society?
11. Discuss the role of science education in environmental conservation efforts.

Marine pollution

12. The Great Pacific Garbage Patch is a threat to our environment. How far do you agree?
13. Discuss the global issue of ocean pollution and its solutions.