National School Science Essay Competition

If you think that Science is fascinating, useful and important, then you should enter the RSSAf National School Science Essay Competition.

TO ENTER: Write a titled essay of 1000 - 2000 words on one of the following topics:

- ‘What advances in robotics and artificial intelligence could impact on youth employment in South Africa?’
- ‘Discuss how indigenous knowledge in South Africa has led to the development of valuable new products and services used internationally.’
- ‘How can South Africa address the challenges of water conservation?’
- ‘Given the recent palaeontological discoveries in South Africa, why is it important for us to study and understand human origins?’

In each of the four topics, the prizes are:

1st prize R2 000          *         2nd prize R1 250         *          3rd prize R750

Plus two Merit Prizes to the value of R250 each
Plus a special prize of R1 000 for the top two primary school essays.

See our website http://royalsocietysa.org.za for previous winners.

Prizes are generously sponsored by the Claude Leon Foundation, a charitable trust established as a result of a bequest by Claude Leon (1884-1972). See http://www.leonfoundation.co.za/ for further information on the Foundation’s mission and activities.

To be eligible to enter you must be a full time scholar in 2016. Essays should preferably be in English, but other official South African languages are acceptable. Entries must be typed or neatly hand-written on A4 size paper. Illustrations and diagrams are to be kept to a minimum and must be in black and white (or greyscale) only.

PUPILS MUST SUBMIT THEIR ESSAYS TO THEIR TEACHER, AND NOT DIRECTLY TO THE SOCIETY. TEACHERS ARE REQUESTED TO MAKE A SELECTION FROM ESSAYS WRITTEN BY AN ENTIRE SCHOOL AND FORWARD ONLY THE THREE BEST ESSAYS PER CATEGORY.

Essays, with the completed and signed form, should be posted (not registered) or sent as an email attachment on or before 29 April 2016 to the address at the bottom of Page 2. Late, unsigned or faxed entries will not be accepted.

Entries will be judged by a panel of scientists chaired by the Essay Competition convenor, who is a member of the Society’s Council. Certificates will be awarded to all prize winners and to writers of other essays that the judges consider to show merit. The two best essays of the entire competition will be published in the Transactions of the Royal Society of South Africa, the Society’s prestigious scientific journal, and their school will receive the Royal Society of South Africa – National Science Essay Trophy which is sponsored by the Claude Leon Foundation.
NOTES FOR PARTICIPANTS IN THE RSSA SCIENCE ESSAY COMPETITION

Please remember to give your essay a title and to enter that title in the form at the bottom of this page, which must accompany your entry to the competition.

Plagiarised work, i.e. ‘copied and pasted’ from the Internet or directly from books, etc., will be immediately disqualified and the pupil concerned will be blacklisted from all future RSSAf competitions.

The Society is aware that some pupils have access to much better facilities and resources than others, and will take such limitations into account. If you do not have access to a typewriter or computer, then a neatly hand-written essay is perfectly acceptable, but do not use handwriting to disguise plagiarism.

The following notes are suggestions on how those of you with access to facilities such as books and the Internet can make the best use of them.

1. You should not just list a series of facts taken from sources such as books, magazines or the Internet. You are expected to explain and interpret any factual information used in your essay. ‘Copying and Pasting’ directly from the Internet is not acceptable.

2. If you use material from books, magazines, the Internet etc., you should list the various references that you have used in a bibliography at the end of your essay. If you use information from the Internet, then you should list the URL of the site and the date it was accessed. See ‘Notes to Authors’ on the Royal Society Website www.royalsocietysa.org.za

4. Please read through your essay carefully and make any corrections before submitting it to your teacher.

PLEASE COMPLETE THIS FORM USING BLOCK CAPITALS

Pupil’s First Name...................................... Surname........................................................ Gender.............
Teacher’s Name.......................................................... Pupil’s Grade........
School/College.............................................................................................................................................
School Postal Address........................................................................................................................................
...............................................................................................................................Postcode:......................
School.Tel No:..............................................Fax No:................................. Pupil’s Tel No..........................

School Email Address : ................................................................................................................................

Pupil’s Email Address (if available)................................................................................................................

Your Essay Title.............................................................................................................................................

I CONFIRM THAT THE ABOVE DETAILS ARE CORRECT AND THAT THE ESSAY IS ENTIRELY MY OWN WORK.

Signed........................................................................... Date................................................................

UNSIGNED, LATE OR FAXED ENTRIES WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED

CLOSING DATE 29 APRIL 2016

Post to: Royal Society of South Africa, 6.76 P D Hahn Building, University of Cape Town, Rhodes Gift 7700.

Email entries and enquiries to: royalsociety@uct.ac.za or Telephone: 021 650 2543