



Essay Competition INSTRUCTIONS

Before you begin, please read the guidelines carefully:

1. **Theme:** Students for Humanity
2. **Submission Type:** Individual written essay
3. Choose only ONE essay prompt from the titles provided.
4. **Eligible Participants:** Students of Grades 9-12 only
5. **Maximum word limit:** 999 words
6. Essays beyond the word limit will be disqualified
7. Submissions must be uploaded in PDF or DOCX format

You must include:

- Your name
- Your class
- Your school
- Your chosen prompt

8. **Deadline for submission:** 20 Sept 2026

(Late entries will not be accepted)

9. You may lose marks for lack of originality, depth, or creativity if AI tools are used. Ensure your work reflects your own thinking and voice.
10. Details of prizes will be announced at the closing ceremony



PROMPTS

1. Climate Justice & Global Responsibility

Should wealthy nations be legally required to reduce consumption and compensate climate-vulnerable countries, even when doing so imposes economic costs on their own citizens?

2. Youth Activism, Democracy & Civil Disobedience

When established democratic processes fail to address serious injustice, can disruptive student protest be ethically justified despite the inconvenience or harm it may cause to others?



Judging Criteria

Criteria	Description	Marks
Quality of Thought, Originality & Intellectual Insight	• A clear, defensible central argument • Sophisticated reasoning that engages complexity and counterarguments • A fresh, distinctive perspective or original interpretation • A strong intellectual voice that shows genuine independent thinking	10
Evidence, Scholarship & Analytical Support	• Relevant, well-chosen examples, evidence, or theoretical frameworks • Smooth, meaningful integration of supporting material • Accuracy and contextual understanding of factual claims • Evidence used to strengthen reasoning, not replace it	10
Structure, Clarity & Writing Quality	• Clear, logical organization with coherent flow • Concise, precise writing and effective transitions • Strong introduction and purposeful conclusion • Clarity and tone suited to the argument and topic	5
Voice, Expression & Engagement	• Clear and consistent authorial voice • Thoughtful engagement with the prompt • Effective expression appropriate to the category (analytical or narrative) • Coherent articulation of ideas	5
Warning Indicators	• ChatGPT-style unstructured ramble • Overly simplistic answers to deep questions • Lack of reasoning or unexamined assumptions • Clichéd arguments or generic writing • Factual errors or misuse of concepts • Excessive jargon without clarity • No clear thesis or direction	