

Guidelines for Essay Writing Competition

BACKGROUND

1. India has pledged to phase out Single Use Plastic (SUP) by 2022 on World Environment Day, 2018. Further, Hon'ble Prime Minister re-emphasized the commitment to phase out single use plastic by stating about it in his speech at the inauguration of Swachh Bharat Diwas on 2nd October, 2019.
2. Hon'ble Prime Minister reviewed the issue of Elimination of Single Use Plastic during PRAGATI meeting held on 24th February 2021. The pan India essay writing competition would help in establishing a strong and robust engagement with students on the issue of reducing plastic pollution and elimination of SUP.
3. Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MoEF&CC), Government of India is organizing a pan-India essay writing competition for school students at the secondary(8th, 9th and 10th graders) and senior secondary(11th and 12th graders) stages on the theme '**A future without littered plastic waste and single use plastic items – through sustainability and circularity**'. The competition will be organized in close collaboration with the Ministry of Education.

OBJECTIVE

4. The main objective of the essay writing competition is to foster the engagement of school students in the campaign on plastic waste management in and elimination of littered Single Use Plastic items.

ELIGIBILITY

5. Competition shall be open for students studying in schools in India.
6. Competition will be held in the following two categories of school students:
 - Students of classes 8,9 and 10, and
 - Students of classes 11 and 12.
7. The upper age limit for class 12th school students would be 18 years as on 31.3.2021.

TOPICS FOR ESSAY

8. The topics for essay category-wise is given below:

S. No.	Category	Essay Topics
1	Students of classes 8,9 and 10	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Principles of Reduce, Reuse, Recycle in Plastic Waste ManagementInnovative Ideas for Zero Plastic Waste School EventsReducing the Impacts of Single Use Plastic Products through Alternative Products
2	Students of classes 11 and 12	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Creating a Circular Economy for Plastic Waste - Role of CitizensReducing Single Use Plastic Pollution: Role of youthMainstreaming Alternatives to Single Use Plastic Products through Innovation and Creativity

ORGANIZATION OF COMPETITION

9. The competition for the schools under KVS and NVS would be held at the regional and national levels.

SUBMISSION FORMAT OF ENTRIES

10. Entries may be in either in English or Hindi or regional language of the state. The entries should be submitted in PDF file format only within the word limit of 500- 800 words.
11. Write-up text should be submitted in readable Font of Hindi/English. Font size should be 12 for English and 14 for Hindi/Regional language. Line spacing should be 1.5 only.

SUBMISSION OF ENTRIES

12. The entries would be submitted by participating students to their respective schools before the due date.
13. The entries shall be submitted by students to the school, either in English, Hindi, or respective regional language of the State, where school is present.

14. Every participating student can send one entry only. In case, it is found that any participant has submitted more than one entry, all the entries will be considered as invalid.
15. The entry should be original. Copied entries will not be considered under the contest.
16. The participant must be the same person who has written the write-up and plagiarism would not be accepted. Please note that the essay must be original and should not violate any provision of the Indian Copyright Act, 1957.
17. Anyone found infringing on others' copyright would be disqualified from the competition. Government of India does not bear any responsibility for copyright violations or infringements of intellectual property carried out by the participants.
18. Each school shall submit the best three entries, from that school, for English, Hindi and regional language of that state, separate for each category, for competition at the regional level.

SELECTION OF AWARD-WINNING ENTRIES

19. All the entries received within the due date will be placed before District level, State level and National Committee, as applicable, for final selection as per procedure detailed out below. The decision of the Selection Committee (s) shall be final and binding on all the contestants. Any legal proceedings arising out of the competition/its entries/ winners shall be subject to jurisdiction of Delhi only.

CRITERIA OF EVALUATION

21. The write-ups will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

- - Central theme – contextual (20%)
 - Coherence and organization in structure (20%)
 - Creativity and innovation (40%)
 - Clarity in language expression and style (20%)

EVALUATION COMMITTEES – DISTRICT, STATE AND NATIONAL LEVEL

District Level Committee

22. The entries shall be evaluated at the district level by a District- Level committee. The District Collector will constitute a committee under District Education Officer with the support from the District Institute of Education and Training (DIET) or similar organisation to examine and evaluate the entries to select the top three essays in two distinct categories, and for each language i.e. Hindi, English and the respective regional language, as applicable.

23. The Committee shall evaluate entries and identify the top three winning entries (1st, 2nd and 3rd Prize), for each category and for each language. These winning entries from each district of the state shall be forwarded to State School Education Department.

State Level Committee

24. The award winning entries from each district will become a pool of top essays at the state level and will be considered for selecting State level winners.
25. The ACS/Principal Secretary (School Education) will constitute a committee at the state level for evaluation of entries with the representatives from State School Education Department and State Council of Educational Research and Training (SCERT) or similar organisation. The respective State Nodal Agencies under Eco-club/National Green Corps program of the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MoEFCC) may provide necessary support to the Committee.
26. The State Level committee will evaluate the entries and identify the top three entries, under the two categories, and for each language i.e. English, Hindi and Regional language of the State/UT, as applicable.
27. The award winning essays from each state/UT will become a pool of selected essays for final selection at the national level.

National Level Committee

28. The Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) will constitute a committee for evaluating entries received from the States / UTs. The committee will have representative from Ministry of Education, Government of India.
29. The Committee shall recommend top three entries, under each category and for each language i.e. English, Hindi and any top three from amongst all the regional languages for award at the national level.

AWARDS – DISTRICT, STATE AND NATIONAL LEVEL

30. The Award details are given as under:

District Level awards

(Total Awards: 18)

(Awards for each category: 9 – Three each for each language English, Hindi and Regional Language) (Two categories)

- 1st Prize** – Award Certificate
2nd Prize - Award Certificate
3rd Prize - Award Certificate.

State / UT Level Award

(Total Awards: 18)

(Awards for each category: 9 – Three each for each language English, Hindi and Regional Language) (Two categories)

1st Prize - Rs. 5000 +

Award Certificate

2nd Prize - Rs. 3000 +

Award Certificate

3rd Prize - Rs.2000 +

Award Certificate

National Level Award

(Total Awards: 30)

*(Awards for each category: 15 – Five each for each language English, Hindi and Regional language(From amongst all regional languages))
(Two categories)*

1st Prize - Rs. 25,000 + Award Certificate

2nd Prize - Rs. 15, 000 + Award Certificate

3rd Prize - Rs. 10, 000 + Award Certificate

Consolation Prizes (2) - Rs. 5,000 + Award Certificate
