



ENVIRONMENTAL LAW ASSOCIATION ESSAY COMPETITION RULES

1. The ELA Essay Competition is open to any student who is enrolled at a South African higher education institution (including undergraduate and postgraduate programs) or was enrolled in the year prior to submission, but has since completed his/her studies. Evidence of enrolment as a student must be submitted along with the essay. For the purposes of this Essay Competition, a 'South African higher education institution' is such an institution as defined in the Higher Education Act 101 of 1997. Submissions will be considered in two categories: (i) under graduate students and (ii) post-graduate students.
2. The ELA Essay Competition seeks submissions that are based on high quality, cutting-edge scholarship on South African environmental law and governance issues, including, but not limited to the areas of **climate change, mining, natural resources extraction, land use planning, human rights and the environment, and the rights of nature**. You are encouraged to submit essays on environmental law and governance issues arising from assignments, dissertations, or theses that have been submitted/are to be submitted for assessment in a unit/topic/subject at a South African higher education institution, but shortened as necessary to take into account the word count restriction of **6,000 to 10,000 words**.
3. The deadline for submission of your essay is published with an accompanying announcement each year. The ELA Executive has discretion to extend this deadline in individual cases where a student has reasonable grounds to seek additional time, and a general extension of this date for all entrants may also be announced if this is considered necessary to improve the quantity and/or quality of essay submissions. Submissions will be considered in two categories: (i) under graduate students and (ii) post-graduate students.
4. A student is permitted only one entry in the competition each year, and a maximum of two entries in a period of five years. The essay must be an original work, completed alone and unaided (save for ordinary input from the student's supervisor). Jointly authored papers will not be accepted.
5. All entries must be submitted in Microsoft WORD.
6. **All entries must:**
 - a. **submit a separate cover page upon which the following details are recorded:** i. **the student's name;** ii. **an email address that the student can be contacted;** iii. **the higher education institution where the student is/was enrolled;** iv. **the name of the course of study that the student is enrolled in, indicating clearly whether this is a postgraduate or an undergraduate course of study.**
 - b. **provide proof of enrolment.**
 - c. **be submitted to the ELA Executive via the Google Form provided in the announcement.**
 - d. **not contain any plagiarism, nor any artificial intelligence input.**
7. Apart from the cover page and proof of enrolment referred to in paragraph 6, the submission must not contain any information that identifies the student or the institution he/she attends. In other words, entrants are required to anonymize their submissions.
8. The expected word-length for submissions is from 6,000 to 10,000 words. Referencing such as footnotes and the bibliography are NOT included in this limit.
9. Students' essays must appropriately acknowledge all primary and secondary sources used. A bibliography should be included.
10. Students may use a recognised citation



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- system required by your university school or faculty. [L] [SEP]
11. Once the deadline for submission has passed, the ELA Executive will appoint a panel of environmental law experts to review all entries and select the winning entry. If the entries are so numerous that the decision is likely to be unduly delayed, the panel may appoint additional assessors to prepare a shortlist from which the panel may select the winning essay. [L] [SEP]
 12. All essays will be reviewed by the panel without disclosing the identity or institutional affiliation of the student authors. If the identity of a student who is personally known to a panel member is inadvertently revealed, that panel member will take no part in assessing that student's essay. [L] [SEP]
 13. Only one essay in the undergraduate category and one essay in the post-graduate category may be announced as the winner, and an essay may be awarded a runner-up prize if the panel deems this to be appropriate. If the panel finds that two or more essays are equally deserving of this prize, the panel may seek additional comments on the topic from the authors, either in writing or by way of interview or teleconference and these comments may be used as a basis for selecting the ultimate winner. [L] [SEP]
 14. Where in the panel's view, no submission is of a sufficiently high quality, the panel reserves the right to decline to declare a winner in either or both categories. [L] [SEP]
 15. The decision of the panel will be final and no correspondence will be entered into concerning the correctness of its decision. The ELA Executive will have the final decision in all matters not determined by the panel of experts and no correspondence will be entered into concerning such decisions. [L] [SEP]
 16. The winner in each category will receive R3000 in cash, one non-transferrable complimentary registration for an ELA conference, at which he/she may present his/her essay as a conference paper, and one year of free membership of ELA commencing from 1 January in the year following the competition. The winning essay will also be considered for publication in a relevant academic journal.
 17. Certificates of Commendation may be awarded to worthy participants who are not selected as the winner. Some highly commended essays may also be considered for publication. [L] [SEP]
 18. The ELA Executive reserves the right to vary these rules from time to time at its discretion without notice to competitors. The ELA website will be regularly updated with the most recent version of the Rules.
 19. All participants in this Essay Competition agree to be bound by these rules as a condition of their participation. [L] [SEP]
 20. Queries may be directed to melmurcott@icloud.com.