



THE ENGLISH-SPEAKING UNION CHILE

THE NATIONAL ENGLISH WRITING COMPETITION 2011

The competition consists of both essay writing and creative writing.

CATEGORIES

- 1st: Secondary school pupils not older than 18 on 1st December, 2011
2nd: Adults aged between 18 and 26 on 1st December, 2011.

ELIGIBILITY

Participants must be resident in Chile and have English as their second language.

PARTICIPATION

Participants must hand in an original argumentative essay written in English.

For the first category each school should select the five best essays written by its pupils and present these. Those who are still at school may not participate in the second category.

Those who have won first prize in other ESU Chile competitions of any type will not be considered for the first prize in this writing competition.

STRUCTURE AND RULES OF THE COMPETITION

First Stage:

Each competitor should write an original argumentative essay in English, of between 500 and 800 words (1st Category) or between 700 and 1000 words (2nd Category), on one of the following themes:

- a) Does Nuclear power have a future as a viable source of energy in the world?
- b) Did the media spend too much time and energy reporting the Royal wedding, or did it serve a useful purpose?
- c) Should governments bail out banks in times of crisis?
- d) Can religion have any role in the laws and governments of democratic nations?
- e) I would make a good president of Chile.
- f) There is no longer any need for borders between countries. Discuss.

The themes are not titles. **Each competitor should create his/her own title** related to one of the themes and develop a personal point of view in the argument. **The title should appear on the first page of the text.**

We would like to urge potential competitors to take on the challenge even if he or she has not much experience in writing essays of this type. The organisers are aware that

many of those competing may be relative novices at essay writing.

The main feature of an argumentative essay is the development of an argument using reasoning and examples, that having considered all options, a particular point of view is the right one. A very basic introduction to the writing of argumentative essays is annexed to this document.

The essay must be original. Plagiarism will result in disqualification. Bibliographic quotes should appear between inverted commas and their author, if not mentioned in the text of the essay, should appear at the foot of the page. The sources used in the preparation of the essay should appear on the last page.

Second Stage:

The finalists in each category, selected by the judges on the basis of the essays presented, will be invited to the Ralli Museum on 29th September in order to take part in an individual creative writing session. This year for the first time we will also be holding finals in Valdivia and hopefully Iquique. The nature of the writing task will be announced at the start of this session.

FORMAT FOR THE ESSAY

The essay must be sent by email. **In the body of the email** the following information should be included:

Category (1st or 2nd)

Chosen theme and title of essay.

Complete names of the writer

RUT number

Date of birth

School (in the case of Category 1)

Home address, telephone numbers and e-mail address

How you heard about this competition

No part of the essay itself must appear in the body of the email.

The essay should be attached to the email as a Word document. It should be double spaced, Arial font, size 12. The title you have chosen must appear at the top of each page, but no other personal information should be included on any page.

The essay must be sent in by email to: prensa@britanico.cl entitled "ESU English Writing Competition".

JUDGES

The judges for both stages of the competition will be teachers of English, writers and other suitably qualified people.

The judges will only have access to the essay, so they will know nothing of the names or origins of the writers.

JUDGING CRITERIA

- a) **First Stage:** The judges will assess the essays according to the following criteria:
- i) Use of language
 - ii) Analysis of the chosen argument
 - iii) Presentation and structure
- b) **Second Stage:** The judges will assess the creative writing work according to the following criteria:
- i) Use of language
 - ii) Originality
 - iii) Quality of response to a given stimulus

PRIZES

Prizes will be awarded principally to the best creative writing pieces of work. The essays will only be counted at this stage in case of a tie.

The prizes awarded will be as follows:

1st Category:

- 1st prize: an air ticket to an English Speaking country.
- 2nd prize: to be announced
- 3rd prize: to be announced
- Three honourable mentions

2nd Category:

- 1st prize: an air ticket to an English speaking country.
- 2nd prize: to be announced
- 3rd prize: to be announced
- Three honourable mentions

The award of the prizes will take place at a special ceremony at the Ralli Museum on the 3rd of November 2011.

KEY DATES

- 5th August: Deadline for reception of essays
- 13th Sept: Notification sent to finalists
- 29th Sept: Final stage at Ralli Museum: creative writing
- 3rd Nov: Prize-giving and cocktail at Ralli Museum for finalists and guests

RECEPTION OF ESSAYS

Essays should be sent in **only** by email to prensa@britanico.cl

SPONSORS

The competition is sponsored by the British Institute, English First, HSBC Bank, ESU among others.

FINAL POINTS

The decisions of the judges, appointed by the English-Speaking Union Chile and the Chilean British Institute, will be final.

Veronica Stronach
Chairperson
The English-Speaking Union Chile