

# INFORMATION GUIDE

## LSEUPR ESSAY COMPETITION

### 2023





The LSE Undergraduate Political Review (LSEUPR) is an online platform that aims to encourage and facilitate an engagement in high-level political research by undergraduate students from universities around the world.

Our annual competition aims to encourage high school students to explore the field of Political Science and undertake university-style essay writing. It also presents itself as an ideal extra-curricular for students wishing to include this experience in their UCAS personal statements.

Ultimately, the LSEUPR Essay Competition aims to fulfil three objectives:

- 1) **Exploration:** this is a chance for students to engage with various topics and to explore ideas outside the academic confines of examinations and grades.
- 2) **Experience:** for those wishing to apply to university, this essay competition is an opportunity to produce an evidence-based, long form piece of writing. This is exactly the kind of work you will be asked to produce regularly at university.
- 3) **Prestige:** taking part in this competition is an achievement in itself and something that you can discuss in interviews, on your CV, and your personal statement for your university application.

## OUR AIMS

# INDIVIDUAL PRIZES

## 1st Place Prize

- £100 Amazon Voucher
- Certificate signed by Professor Paul Kelly, Head of the LSE Department of Government
- Essay to be published on the LSEUPR blog
- The opportunity to attend and to present your essay at the LSEUPR Annual Conference 2024

## 2nd Place Prize

- £50 Amazon Voucher
- Certificate signed by Professor Paul Kelly, Head of the LSE Department of Government
- Essay to be published on the LSEUPR blog

## 3rd Place Prize

- £25 Amazon Voucher
- Certificate signed by Professor Paul Kelly, Head of the LSE Department of Government
- Essay to be published on the LSEUPR blog

## 2023 QUESTIONS

1) "The management of Artificial Intelligence technology should be the biggest priority for the international community." To what extent do you agree?

2) "Democracies would be better off without political parties."  
Discuss.

3) Can International Organisations fight climate change effectively?

# SUBMISSION SPECIFICS

- **Submission Deadline: 10 October 2023, 23: 59 BST**

- The word limit is 1,000 words, any submission that is longer than this will be automatically disqualified (Note: any in-text citations and headings are included in the word count, but the title, bibliography and appendix, if applicable, are not included)
- English, Arial font, sized 12
- Standard 1-inch margins
- Submit essay as a PDF
- This is an independent piece of work. While you are free to discuss the topic with your peers/teacher, the final submission ultimately needs to be your own work.
- Students from any country are allowed to enter, the competition is not limited to the UK, but is limited by level of study (see below).
- Essays should be concise, analytical, imaginative, and impartial. Submissions that are explicitly biased, agenda-fuelled, or without strong supporting evidence, are discouraged – scholarly essays are not columnist opinion pieces.
- **It is extremely important to cite your sources. You are free to use any established referencing style, as long as its use is consistent.**
- You must be yet to complete your A-Level studies, IB or equivalent, i.e. about to begin year 12 or 13 of secondary school or equivalent.

# RESOURCES - ESSAY WRITING



- General guidance on academic essay writing:  
<https://info.lse.ac.uk/current-students/lse-life/resources/podcasts/academic-writing-basic-principles>
- Developing your essay thesis:  
<https://writingcenter.fas.harvard.edu/pages/developing-thesis>
- Structuring your essay:  
<https://writingcenter.fas.harvard.edu/pages/essay-structure>  
<https://info.lse.ac.uk/current-students/lse-life/resources/podcasts/essay-writing-planning-and-structure>
- Writing a clear introduction:  
<https://info.lse.ac.uk/current-students/lse-life/resources/podcasts/essay-writing-the-introduction>
- Ensuring your essay is clear and easy to follow:  
<https://writingcenter.fas.harvard.edu/pages/topic-sentences-and-signposting>  
<https://writingcenter.fas.harvard.edu/pages/transitioning-beware-velcro>
- Writing an impactful conclusion:  
<https://writingcenter.fas.harvard.edu/pages/ending-essay-conclusions>
- Editing your essay:  
<https://writingcenter.fas.harvard.edu/pages/editing-essay-part-one>  
<https://writingcenter.fas.harvard.edu/pages/editing-essay-part-two>  
<https://writingcenter.fas.harvard.edu/pages/developing-thesis>

# RESOURCES - REFERENCING



- General overview:

<https://www.lse.ac.uk/gender/assets/documents/study-support-docs/DoGS-Guide-to-Citing-and-Referencing.doc>

<https://student.unsw.edu.au/referencing>

<https://pitt.libguides.com/citationhelp>

<https://www.scribbr.co.uk/referencing/harvard-style/>

- Chicago: Chicago Manual of Style (17th Edition):

[https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research\\_and\\_citation/chicago\\_manual\\_17th\\_edition/cmos\\_formatting\\_and\\_style\\_guide/chicago\\_manual\\_of\\_style\\_17th\\_edition.html](https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research_and_citation/chicago_manual_17th_edition/cmos_formatting_and_style_guide/chicago_manual_of_style_17th_edition.html)

- APA: APA Style (6th Edition):

[https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research\\_a](https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research_a)

<https://student.unsw.edu.au/apa>

- Harvard: Harvard style:

<https://student.unsw.edu.au/harvard-referencing>

<https://www5.open.ac.uk/library/referencing-and-plagiarism/quick-guide-to-harvard-referencing-cite-them-right>

- Footnotes & bibliographies:

<https://student.unsw.edu.au/footnote-bibliography-or-oxford-referencing-system>

# CONTACTS

Do you have any questions?  
Feel free to reach out!



[lseupr@lse.ac.uk](mailto:lseupr@lse.ac.uk)



[@lseupr](https://www.instagram.com/lseupr)

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