



Australian Law Students' Association

National Essay Competition Rules

1. COMPETITION NAME	
1.1	This Competition will be known as the Australian Law Students' Association (ALSA) National Essay Competition.
2. DEFINITIONS	
2.1	<i>Affiliated law school:</i> as defined in the ALSA Constitution
2.2	<i>Executive:</i> the ALSA Executive
2.3	<i>Law student:</i> an individual who is enrolled and studying, at the time of entering the competition, a full time or part time LLB or JD program at any law school affiliated with the Australian Law Students' Association.
2.3.1	An individual who has completed their LLB or JD units of study but has not yet graduated is not eligible to enter into the National Essay Competition.
2.4	<i>Competitor:</i> a law student who has submitted an essay to the National Essay Competition.
3. ENTRY TO THE NATIONAL ESSAY COMPETITION	
3.1	By entering this Competition, all competitors agree to be bound by the rules outlined in this document, as well as in the ALSA Competitions By-Law, and the ALSA Constitution.
3.2	The entry dates shall be set by the ALSA Competitions Officer. The period for entry shall not be less than one calendar month.
3.3	Only one submission per competitor is permitted.
4. PLAGIARISM	
4.1	By entering this competition, the competitor declares that the essay is their own original work.
4.2	Any essays found to have been plagiarised from any other body of work, other than the work of the competitor themselves, will automatically be disqualified from the National Essay Competition.
5. REQUIREMENTS OF ESSAY	
5.1	Essays must be based on a 'legal topic'. Whether a topic is considered 'legal' is at the discretion of the marker of the competition.
5.2	The essay must be no less than 3,000 words and no greater than 12,000 words.
5.2.1	The word count specified in 11.2 does not include references; however, it will include substantive discussions in footnotes.
5.3	All essays must be appropriately referenced in accordance with the Australian Guide to Legal Citation (3rd ed).
5.4	Submissions must be accompanied by a cover page in a separate document which is to include the following:
5.4.1	The name of the competitor;
5.4.2	The university at which the competitor is currently enrolled;
5.4.3	The year level of the competitor;
5.4.4	The title of the essay;
5.4.5	The word count of the essay; and
5.4.6	An abstract of no more than 300 words.
5.4.6.1	The abstract is not to be included in the word count specified in 5.2.

5.5	Submissions must be emailed to the Competitions Officer at their specified email address in both word and PDF format.
5.6	Only the cover page may identify the name or university of the competitor. The essay itself must not identify the competitor.
6. MARKING OF ESSAYS	
6.1	Each submission must be marked by a person, or persons, appointed by the Competitions Officer with the approval of the ALSA Executive.
6.1.1	For the purpose of marking, the official marker(s) will only be provided with the essays, not the cover sheets
6.1.2	The Competitions Officer reserves the right to reduce the number of essays conveyed to the official marker to a number not less than six, in order to reduce the workload of the official marker.
6.1.3	In deciding which essays are to be excluded from consideration by the official marker, the Competitions Officer will have regard to the factors enumerated in r 6.2.
6.1.4	Where the number of essays is reduced before being conveyed to the official marker, the person(s) creating the shortlist will only be provided with the essays, not the cover sheets.
6.2	In the event that two or more official markers are obtained to mark the National Essay Competition, the final marks provided by each marker will be averaged to determine the winner.
6.3	Each essay is to be given a mark out of 100.
6.4	Each essay is to be assessed according to the following criteria:
6.4.1	Conventions;
6.4.2	Form;
6.4.3	Cohesion and logic;
6.4.4	Content; and
6.4.5	Referencing.
6.5	The mark given by the marker(s) is final and may not be appealed.
6.6	The marker(s) has the discretion as to whether they provide individual feedback regarding each respective competitor's submission to the competition.
6.7	In the event that the marker(s) does provide individual feedback, the feedback will be provided to each competitor within a reasonable time after receipt of same from the Competitions Officer.
7. PRIZES	
7.1	The winner of the National Essay Competition will be announced at the Closing Gala of the annual ALSA Conference.
7.2	The winner of the National Essay Competition will receive a \$1,000 cash prize.
7.2.1	This cash prize is subject to change at the discretion of the ALSA Executive.
7.3	The top four entries into the National Essay Competition will be published in the ALSA Academic Journal.
7.3.1	Further entries into the competition may be published at the discretion of the Publications Officer with the approval of the ALSA Executive.