

Guidelines for Students

1. Submit an original written work between 400-600 words in prose or poetry, either fiction or non-fiction
2. Start with an issue of significance to you, and express your views with conviction
3. Ensure correct grammar, spelling and punctuation
4. Acknowledge your sources if using case studies, media reports or statistics
5. Submit your entry online at whitlam.org/whatmatters¹

How to Write a Winning Entry

The following tips have been provided by our judges.

1. Seek authenticity. Don't write what you think your teacher or the judges would want to read. Choose a subject that you truly care about.²
2. Share a personal experience. While not essential, it is a common feature of many successful essays.
3. Don't overwrite. Keep the language simple and to the point.
4. Be readable. Seek a creative and imaginative approach to your subject.
5. Do your homework. You don't have to fill your essay with facts and figures but some background reading will help shape your understanding of the subject.
6. Comedy can be effective when done well. Humorous writing is acceptable but be aware that comic writing can be more difficult than it seems.

Looking for inspiration? Last year's winners and finalists' essays are online at www.whitlam.org/whatmatters.

Submit your entry at **whitlam.org/whatmatters**

Submit your entry before 11:59pm on the 8th May 2020

¹ Contact us on 02 9685 9210 if you are not able to submit online.

² Occasionally it is not possible to publish an entry because it contains sensitive content. However, students are encouraged to be bold in answering the question *What Matters?*