

## What Matters? 2022 Competition Guidelines

### Competition Guidelines for Students

1. Submit an original written work of up to 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. References and bibliographies will not be included in the word count however references should not include substantive content. All shortlisted entries will undergo a plagiarism check and word count check.
5. Essays are marked anonymously hence student name must not appear in the body of the essay or essay title.
6. There is a limit of one entry per student. If multiple entries are received only the most recent will be accepted.
7. Submit your entry online at [whitlam.org/whatmatters](http://whitlam.org/whatmatters). Should you encounter any technical problems submitting then contact [info@whitlam.org](mailto:info@whitlam.org)

### Tips on How to Write an Engaging 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.<sup>1</sup>
2. Share a personal experience. While not essential, it is a common feature of many successful entries.
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 entry 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 welcome, but be aware that comic writing can be more difficult than it seems.
7. To watch videos with tips from from past winners and for thought starters, visit: <https://www.whitlam.org/what-matters-resources>

### Marking and Judging – a weighting guide to assessment

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| <b>Important and Original</b> – the entry addresses an issue of significance to the student and offers a noteworthy insight or conveys an original perspective on that issue | 40% |
| <b>Writing craft</b> – the entry displays quality of writing, creativity of expression   | 20% |
| <b>Authenticity</b> – the entry conveys genuine concern or interest in a subject   | 20% |
| Grammar, spelling, punctuation and referencing (external sources are acknowledged or cited where used)   | 20% |

<sup>1</sup> 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?*