



Eastern Caribbean Central Bank

CREATIVE YOUTH COMPETITION

*2018/2019
Essay Writing*

*Guidelines for
Preparing Your Essay*

Eastern Caribbean Central Bank Creative Youth Competition

The Eastern Caribbean Central Bank (ECCB) launched the ECCB Creative Youth Competition (CYC) in September 2018 as part of its community outreach programme. The competition emerged from the OECS Essay Competition which was initiated in 1991 to afford the students, ages 14-19, residing in the ECCU, an opportunity to opine and share their thoughts through writing, on topical issues affecting the communities and region in which they live. The CYC is geared towards stimulating the creative minds of the region's youth through essay writing, art, song writing, poetry and other genres on issues that impact the socio-economic landscape of the region.

The competition is open to students of the Eastern Caribbean Currency Union (ECCU) member countries from ages 13 to 19 years.

Prizes

*Prizes	Student	School
<input type="checkbox"/> 1 st Prize	EC\$2,500	EC\$1,500 Grant
<input type="checkbox"/> 2 nd Prize	EC\$1,500	EC\$1,000 Grant
<input type="checkbox"/> 3 rd Prize	EC\$1,000	EC\$500 Grant
<input type="checkbox"/> The school with the most entries in the top 10 receives EC\$500		
<input type="checkbox"/> Teachers who serve as student mentors in preparing the submissions, receive a cash incentive for their efforts and commitment. The first prize student mentor receives EC\$500, the second prize mentor receives EC\$300 and the third prize mentor receives EC\$200.		

**student prizes may be gifts valued at the amount stated in the table above.*

Terms of the Essay Competition

- The competition is open to students of the Eastern Caribbean Currency Union (ECCU) ages 13 to 19.
- Essays must be between **750** and **1,000** words, and must be **type-written, double spaced on letter size paper**, with a **separate cover sheet giving details of: name, age, contact information, school principal, teacher mentor and school attended** by the student. *(Check the ECCB's website for the cover sheet. Sample on page 18.)*
- Each page must be numbered.
- Essays must be written on one of the topics for the 2018-2019 competition.

- ❑ Essays will be judged in two categories: students aged 13 - 16 and 17 - 19. The essays will be assessed for content and soundness of points (20), logical development (20), clarity (20), knowledge of the subject (25), command of language (10) and presentation (5).
- ❑ Children or dependents of ECCB staff are not eligible to enter the competition.
- ❑ Student prize winners may be asked to submit their birth certificates.
- ❑ Essays for the 2018 -2019 competition must be submitted to the Eastern Caribbean Central Bank via email to the attention of ECCB Creative Youth Competition at info@eccb-centralbank.org no later than **31 January 2019**.

2018-2019 ECCB Creative Youth Competition Essay Topics

1. Towards a Cashless Society: challenges, opportunities and the realities for the Eastern Caribbean Currency Union.
2. For the Eastern Caribbean Currency Union to become economically viable, we must strive towards financial sustainability through technology. Discuss.

Checklist for Writing Your Essay

Before handing in your essay, check the following:

Understanding the topic

- Do I fully understand the topic?
- Have I done enough reading on the subject?
- Are my sources appropriate and credible?

Defining and Introducing the Topic

- Have I identified the key terms and important issue(s) to be addressed?

Note: The definition of key terms should speak to the entire topic and not just individual words. Many times essay writers make the mistake of defining the topic word-for-word but fail to hit on the key issue(s) to be explored. While a discussion of key words in the topic may be useful this should only occur to the extent that it helps to clarify the main issue for discussion.

- Does the introduction have a clear, direct and arguable statement that answers the question and offers a decisive opinion?
- Does the introduction grab the reader from the onset?

Structure and Argument

- Is my essay divided into clear paragraphs?
- Have I adequately developed each point to support my position without being repetitive?
- Have I provided illustrative evidence to support my position?
- Have I developed my points in a manner that attracts and holds the readers' interest?
- Does my argument follow a clear line of reasoning?
- Have I used quotations and references in the text correctly?
- Have I paraphrased sufficiently from my research sources?

Summary

- Is the conclusion effective? That is, does it provide a convincing summary of the significant points made in developing the position adopted?

Essay writers often fail to summarise their main points. A good summary can add considerable cohesion to an essay.

Accuracy

- Are my sentences complete and correct?
- Have I used the spell-check? (*Do I need to use the grammar-check?*)
- Is the writing style appropriate for the assignment and the reader?
- Has the essay been proof-read?
- Have I used double-line spacing and numbered the pages?
- Have I attached a cover sheet with my name, age and the name of my school?

Bibliography/Referencing

- Does the bibliography follow correct conventions of layout? Here are some referencing examples for various sources using the MLA method taken from the *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers*:

1. A Page on a Website

Last name, First name. “Document title if available.” Title of the overall Website. Version or edition if available. Publisher or N.p. to designate no publisher, publication date or n.d. to mean no date. Web. Date of access.

If you cannot find some of the information, include only what is available.

"Joyce Wieland." *Celebrating Women's Achievements: Women Artists in Canada*. National Library of Canada, 2000. Web. 29 Mar. 2004.

Cassidy, Penny. "You Can't Read That." *NBC New York*. NBC Universal, 18 Apr. 2009. Web. 29 Apr. 2009.

2. A Book by a Single Author

Michio Kaku, Hyperspace: A Scientific Odyssey through Parallel Universe, Time Warps and the Tenth Dimension (New York: Oxford UP, 1994) 32.

3. A Book by Two or More Authors

James W Marquart, Sheldon Ekland Olson, and Jonathan R Sorensen, The Rope, the Chair, and the Needle: Capital Punishment in Texas, 1923-1990 (Austin: U of Texas P, 1994) 52-57.

4. An article in a Reference Book

"Mandarin," The Encyclopedia Americana, 1993 ed.

5. A Pamphlet

Best Museums: New York City (New York: Trip Builder, 1993)

6. A Government Publication

United Nations, Centre on Transnational Corporations, Foreign Direct Investment, the Service Sector and International Banking (New York: United Nations, 1987) 4-6.

7. An article in a Newspaper

Catherine S. Manegold, "Becoming a Land of the Smoke-Free, Ban by Ban," New York Times 22 Mar. 1994, late ed.: Al. Paul Taylor, "Keyboard Grief: Coping with Computer-Caused Injuries," Globe and Mail [Toronto] 27 Dec. 1993: A1

8. An Article in a Magazine

Hara Estroff Marano, "Domestic Violence," Psychology Today Nov. - Dec. 1993: 48

9. An Editorial

"Death of a Writer," editorial, New York Times 20 Apr. 1994, late ed.: A18.

10. A Letter to the Editor

Cynthia Ozick, letter, Partisan Review 57 (1990): 493-94.

11. A Television or Radio Programme

"Frankenstein: The Making of the Monster," Great Books, narr. David Sutherland, writ. Eugenie Vink, dir. Jonathan Ward, Learning Channel, 8 Sept. 1993.

12. An Interview

Federico Fellini, "The Long Interview," Juliet of the Spirits, ed. Tullio Kezich, trans. Howard

Greenfield (New York: Ballantine, 1966) 56.

13. An Advertisement

Chanel for Men, advertisement, GQ Dec. 1993: 125-26.

14. A Lecture, a Speech or an Address

Margaret Atwood, "Silencing the Scream," Boundaries of the Imagination Forum, MLA Convention, Royal York Hotel, Toronto, 29 Dec. 1993. Studs Terkel, address, Conf. on Coll. Composition and Communication Convention, Palmer House, Chicago, 22 Mar. 1990.

Guidelines

- Have I followed the *Guidelines for Preparing Your Essay*?
- Have I followed the *terms of the competition*?

Students' Guidelines for Preparing Your Essay

1. Essay Topic

Give a concise definition of the topic. Consider what the question is asking. The key words in the question or topic will indicate the type of approach that is required. Are you *describing* a topic (that is, relating events in a sequence as you would in a story), or *evaluating* it (giving the pros and cons, advantages and limitations)?

2. Relevance and Coherence

Relevance: If you do not understand the question or topic (what should be included and what should not be included), ask your teacher for advice on the specific essay topic. The essay should be 'focused' on the precise topic. All of the content must be relevant to the topic and the relevance of each point must be clearly established. Get to the topic immediately and try to cover all of the key issues.

Coherence has two dimensions: whether your text makes sense to a reader and whether it flows and holds together well (cohesion). With respect to the

text making sense, re-read, analyse and judge your essay with the eye of a critical reader. Write in a way that shows familiarity with the issues. When you make a point, try to think of some good examples to illustrate it, and discuss these to show your understanding. As for cohesion, organise your materials as effectively as you can to support the development of an orderly argument. Do not leap from point to point.

3. Knowledge and Understanding

Show evidence in your essay of having read widely but also critically. Demonstrate your knowledge and understanding of the relevant issues - give your opinion on the subject. State the points for and against, quote supporting evidence from experts, studies or experiments. Show especially the similarities, but also point out the differences between two issues. Try to be balanced and impartial. Support with facts, figures, evidence and examples. Your argument may be considerably strengthened by your inclusion of appropriate illustrations.

4. Conclusion

Give a brief account of the main points, with your own conclusions. Give good reason(s) for your conclusion. Conclusions must follow coherently from the evidence. Evidence is provided by drawing upon analysis and interpretation of findings.

5. Presentation

Present your essay in a tidy and well organised way. The essay pages should all be numbered. Check that you have included your bibliography at the end. Always check your spelling, punctuation and grammar carefully.

6. Common mistakes

Logical Development

- Weak introductions which affect the general development of the essay.
- Points presented lack coherence and are vaguely discussed.
- No logical organisation of points. Ideas are simply stated in the essay without proper organisation.
- Poor conclusions which do not offer a summary of the main ideas of the essay.

Soundness of Points

- Lack of research leaving essay based solely on own opinions
- Sources not properly referenced
- Quotes used but showing no relevance to the topic
- Bibliographies incorrectly structured or inadequate
- Failure to justify points or ideas in order to strengthen argument
- Insufficient resources used as reference/research material
- Failure to ensure credibility and reliability of sources
- Little or no use of statistics where necessary
- Ineffective use of researched information
- Lack of inclusion of definitions and key terms

Clarity

- Rambling, repetition and ambiguity
- Outlining a lot of information on the topic but not answering the question
- Unclear arguments
- Failure to state position on the topic
- Use of words in the wrong context

Knowledge of Subject

- Not enough research done to gain knowledge on the topic
- Plagiarism of some parts of essays
- Use of weak and/or inappropriate examples
- Omission of key points and definitions

Command of the Language

- Poor spelling
- Challenges with verb and subject agreement
- Poor sentence and paragraph structure
- Frivolous use of quotations and exclamation marks
- Use of colloquial terms and slangs
- Casual instead of an academic tone in the essay

Presentation

- Failure to follow the guidelines outlined in the terms of the competition
- Untidy submissions
- Different font sizes and styles within the essay

The Cover Sheet



2018/2019 ECCB Creative Youth Competition

Essay Writing

Cover Sheet

This sheet must be attached to each essay submitted

Essay Topic _____

Student's Name _____ Age _____

Email Address _____

Contact Number _____

Name of School _____

School's Principal _____

Teacher Mentor _____

School's Mailing Address _____

School's Email Address _____

I learned about the ECCB Creative Youth Competition through _____

I declare that I, _____ conducted the research for this essay and that the essay was written solely by me. I understand that the ECCB may publish this essay in whole or in part. There are _____ words in this essay.

Student Signature

Date

Principal's Signature

Date

Notes



MISSION STATEMENT

*Advancing the good of the people of the currency union
by maintaining monetary and financial stability and
promoting growth and development.*

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