

2019 READING SCHOOL / READING FOUNDATION McILROY ESSAY COMPETITION

To win the £250 cash prize, take the challenge and write an essay with the title:

This is how I am going to make a difference to the world...

Objectives and criteria:

This competition aims to reward one essay written by a Reading School student which, in the opinion of the judging panels, displays the best combination of:

- **Flair** for expressing complex ideas about a subject in simple terms.
- A logical and well-developed **argument**: it must have a starting idea, develop over a series of topic paragraphs, and reach some kind of clear resolution.
- Evidence of **verve**: a spirit of enthusiasm for the subject and the task, and the process of writing about them.
- **Passion** for sharing a love and understanding of the subject in question.
- **Ingenuity** in coming up with exciting and original ways to tackle matters of current affairs and general knowledge.

Who can enter:

Any student, from any Year group, who is studying at Reading School during the 2018 - 2019 academic session can enter.

How students enter the competition:

You have the opportunity to be inspired by the title: ***This is how I am going to make a difference to the world...*** and apply to it anything you feel is of value which you've learned in your study of an academic subject, pursuit of sport, enjoyment of a personal hobby, or just general knowledge and interest in current affairs.

Have a think: in what ways have your education and life-experience prepared you to make a difference to the world around you? How do you define your 'world': do you want to make a difference to the life of a single individual you know, to your school tutor group, to your local community, to an area of artistic or scientific research, or indeed to the entire planet? Are you going to write about what you can do right now with the skills you currently have, or are you going to plan how you will use future opportunities to make a difference in the long term? Are you going to make a difference in practical, political or philosophical terms?

Essays must be no fewer than 1,000 and no more than 2,000 words long. They must be word processed and feature a specific word count. When entrants present their essay to Mrs Lidbetter, **they must ensure they have not put their name on it.**

Entrants must hand their essay in to Mrs Lidbetter in the School Office (or, in the case of current Year 11 / Year 13 students who are school leavers, email it to her at: secretary@reading-school.co.uk). Each entrant will receive from her a random identification number, and the essay will be submitted by the office to the judging panel. This is the only way essays can be entered for the competition. The deadline is 8.20am on Monday 9th September 2019.

Judging process:

All submissions will be marked anonymously to guarantee impartiality.

A panel of subject experts and teaching staff is responsible for the initial judging process. Depending on the number and quality of the submissions, that panel will then submit a short-list of nominated essays to go forward to a final judging group. The final judging panel will then assess the nominated essays to choose the overall winner.

The judges' decisions are final and not negotiable. The judging process will be subjective and based on collective opinions regarding rank order. No 'marks' will be made on, or awarded to, any essay, and all submissions will be retained by the School for further use. Entrants should not expect a specific personalised response to their submission.

Regulations:

Entrants must write their submissions entirely independently. No consultation with, or involvement of, staff at the school is permitted.

All use of research and academic sources and materials must be correctly referenced and credited in a bibliography (***use the referencing guides provided in the LRC by Mrs Kesteven***). Plagiarism of any kind will result in disqualification.

For additional guidance, please see RJB in the English Office. ***No other member of staff will be able to offer advice on how to enter.***

Failure to follow these guidelines could result in your submission not being considered by the judging panels.

Follow this simple procedure:

- Decide ***how I am going to make a difference to the world...***
- Word process a response on your own.
- Write no fewer than 1,000 words and no more than 2,000 words; clearly state your total.
- Make sure any external sources have been correctly referenced and credited in a bibliography.
- Do not put your name on it, but do clearly state the word count.
- Print off a hard copy and take it (or email it, in the case of school leavers) to Mrs Lidbetter in the School Office before the deadline of Monday 9th September 2019.
- Collect a unique, random, identification number and wait for the opinion of the judging panels.

REMEMBER: THE PRIZE IS £250 IN CASH.

WHAT KIND OF A DIFFERENCE WILL YOU MAKE?