



RULE OF LAW ESSAY CONTEST FOR BC SECONDARY SCHOOL STUDENTS

2019-2020 Essay Topics

There are now two topics for the Law Society of British Columbia's 2019-2020 Rule of Law essay contest:

Does government and/or corporate monitoring of social media adversely affect the Rule of Law? Please provide specific examples.

How is the rule of law affected by a global pandemic?

Eligibility Criteria and Submission Guidelines

The essay contest is open to all Grade 12 students who are enrolled in the 2019/2020 academic year and any secondary school students currently enrolled in, or who have taken, Law 12, Political Studies 12, Social Justice 12 or Social Studies 11 in British Columbia.

Deadline for submissions is Friday, May 15, 2020. Late entries will not be accepted.

- Students will be expected to submit an original essay that addresses the topic and demonstrates their understanding of the Rule of Law, its principles, and its significance in civil society.
- The submission must be the original work of the student. Research, writing and editing must be done solely by the student.
- The essay must be a minimum of 1000 words to a maximum of 1500 words.
- Students must cite at least 3 varied sources such as reference materials, government documents, legislation, and published articles in the body of the essay using any academically acceptable referencing style, and must include a bibliography.
- Citations or bibliography should not be included in the word count.

- Students may submit an essay on each topic, if they wish to do so. However, a student is only eligible for one award.
- After a submission is received, further submissions on the same topic with revisions will not be accepted.
- Essays must be typed and double spaced, and include a cover sheet with the student's full name, name of school and grade, confirmation of enrollment, email address, and phone number. Confirmation of enrollment can be noted by including the student's student number, school name and teacher when the essay is submitted.¹
- Entries should be submitted as a PDF or MS Word document by email to The Law Society at essay@lsbc.org or by mail to The Law Society of British Columbia, 845 Cambie Street, Vancouver BC V6B 4Z9, to the attention of the Policy and Planning Department.

Judging Criteria

Entries will be judged on a clear expression of ideas, an understanding of the topic, originality, and excellence in writing.

- Content 70%, presentation 30%.
- A winner and runner up will be chosen on each topic by a judging panel representing the Law Society and the education community.
- Any submissions that do not comply with the eligibility criteria and submission guidelines will not be considered.
- The Law Society reserves the right to not make an award of a first place or runner up on either or both topics if, in the estimation of the judging panel, there are no submissions of sufficient quality to merit such awards.

¹ This information is collected under authority of the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act, RSBC 1996, c. 165, s. 26(c). The information will be used for the purposes of determining eligibility for the rule of law essay contest for BC secondary students. If you have any questions about the collection, use or disclosure of this information, contact the Director –Policy and Planning, Law Society of British Columbia, 8th Floor, 845 Cambie Street, Vancouver, BC, V6B 4Z9, Tel. (604) 669-2533.

Award Presentation and Publication

- The first prize winner on each topic will receive an award of \$1000; the runner up will receive \$500.
- The first place winner and runner up on each topic will be invited to a special awards presentation held at the Law Society in Vancouver, BC. Travel and accommodation costs for a student not living in Metro Vancouver will be provided by the Law Society.
- Both the winning and runner up essays on each topic will be profiled on the Law Society's website. The Law Society will issue a news release announcing the names of the winners and runners up.
- The winning essay on each topic will also be published in the Benchers' Bulletin. The Benchers' Bulletin is published by the Law Society to update BC lawyers, articulated students and the public on policy and regulatory decisions of the Benchers, on committee and task force work and on Law Society programs and activities.