



**The Philosophy in Schools Association of NSW** invites NSW secondary students to submit an essay to our sixth annual 2024 Essay Competition, proudly sponsored by the **Royal Society of NSW Southern Highlands**.

This packet contains the competition rules (below), the stimulus material, the marking criteria, and submission form.

1. Submissions will be judged by one or more (unpaid) academic philosophers.
2. The three best will be selected, and plus honourable mentions for up to three more deserving entries.
3. Awards will be presented at the Sydney Philosothon, 24 July at Newington College

### **Competition Rules**

1. Entrants must be in Years 10-12 and in full time secondary students at a NSW school (public, private or Catholic). (Students in higher education may not enter.)
2. Each entrant may submit one essay only addressing the set philosophical topic.
3. Essays must not exceed 2000 words. (Please indicate a word count on the front page.)
4. The essay must be entirely the student's own work. Any form of unfair practice (including plagiarism) will disqualify the entrant from the competition.
5. Submissions must be in the form of Word documents in the following format:
  - a. Font size: 12 in a typeset of Calibri, Courier or Times New Roman
  - b. Line spacing: 1.5 between lines
  - c. Italics should be used for foreign/specialist words, bold may be used for emphasis.
  - d. Footnotes should be used, rather than endnotes, if they are required.
  - e. Do not include your name in your submission.
6. The submission must be accompanied by a completed Submission Form which must be signed by the entrant, one of their teachers and a parent/caregiver. (The form can be found on Page 6 of this document.) The submission form and essay should be attached separately to a single email, sent to [philosophyinschoolsnsw@gmail.com](mailto:philosophyinschoolsnsw@gmail.com)
7. No more than 3 submissions can be made per school.
8. Submissions received after the due date (7 June at 5.00pm AEST) will not be considered.



The Philosophy in Schools Association of NSW  
2024 Essay Competition

**Stimulus:**

Is using AI Generators, like ChatGPT, for studying and writing student essays ethical?  
Interrogate your assumptions and discuss the implications of your conclusion.



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**Marking Criteria**

Submissions will be evaluated based on their critical engagement, synthesis of ideas, and written expression using the criteria below:

Range	Criteria
A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Outstanding, perceptive and sophisticated response which exhibits coherence and cohesion</li> <li>• Engages critically with key thinkers, arguments and issues in this field</li> <li>• Expresses perceptive ideas with clarity / skill / originality</li> </ul>
B	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Effectively explores / discusses the philosophical problem of free speech</li> <li>• Shows understanding of key thinkers, arguments and issues in this field</li> <li>• Expresses ideas effectively in relation to the stimulus</li> </ul>
C	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provides a discussion and/or description of the problem of free speech</li> <li>• Makes relevant reference to key thinkers, arguments and issues in this field</li> <li>• Expresses ideas competently</li> </ul>
D	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Attempts to discuss the concept of free speech</li> <li>• Shows some awareness of thinkers, arguments and issues in this field</li> <li>• Expresses ideas in a variable manner</li> </ul>
E	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Describes or refers to the topic 'free speech'</li> <li>• Shows limited awareness of relevant thinkers, arguments and issues</li> <li>• Expresses ideas in a confused or limited manner</li> </ul>



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### Submission form

School \_\_\_\_\_ Year group \_\_\_\_\_

Student name \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher's name \_\_\_\_\_

The signatures below constitute a pledge that student work has been checked by an anti-plagiarising software (e.g., turnitin) and that all of the writing is the student's own work, with the exception of those portions which are properly documented.

Student signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher's signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

We the undersigned give permission for essays to be published by the Philosophy of Schools Association of NSW and/or the Royal Society of the Southern Highlands in print newsletters and/or online.

Student signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Student's Parent name \_\_\_\_\_

Student's Parent signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

We the undersigned give permission for the student's name and image to be circulated in print newsletters and/or online

Student signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Student's Parent name \_\_\_\_\_

Student's Parent signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_