



ROYAL SOCIETY OF SOUTH AFRICA

National School Science Essay Competition

Kindly sponsored by the Claude Leon Foundation

Closing date: 2nd May 2018

TO ENTER : Write a **titled** essay of 1000 - 2000 words on **one** of the following topics:

- “Sugar Crush” – how can South Africa beat the diabetes epidemic?
- ‘Cutting edge of gene editing: is CRISPR a new era for science based medicine, or is it a dangerous new tool that can create monsters?’
- ‘Water is the new gold. What can science do to help South Africa preserve and maximise its water resources?’

In **each** of the three topics, the prizes are:

1st prize R5 000 * **2nd prize R4 000** * **3rd prize R3 000**

Plus two Merit Prizes to the value of **R1000** each

See our website www.royalsocietysa.org.za (under Projects) for previous winners and the two top essays for each year.

Eligibility

1. You must be a full time scholar in 2018 registered at a South African school
2. Essays should preferably be in English, but other official South African languages are acceptable.
3. Entries to be typed or neatly hand-written on A4 size paper. Illustrations and diagrams are to be kept to an absolute minimum and must be in black and white (or greyscale) only.

Process

1. Pupils must submit their essays to their **Teacher**, and not directly to the Society. Teachers are requested to make a selection from essays written by an entire school and forward only the three best essays per category.
2. Submit the Essay, either by:
 - Mail to the address below – **don't forget to include the signed Entry Form** or,
 - Email as a **document** (.doc) attachment i.e. NOT JPG to the email address below. The signed Entry Form may be sent as a .pdf or faxed (see number below) *Only the signed Entry Form may be faxed not the essay*
 - Essays without the signed Entry Form, or faxed or late essays will not be accepted

**Mail to: Royal Society of SA, 6.76 P D Hahn Building,
University of Cape Town, Rhodes Gift 7700**

E-mail to: royalsociety@uct.ac.za Fax2Email: 086 517 3674

Entries will be judged by scientists in academia overseen by the Competition Convenor, who is a member of the Society's Council. Certificates will be awarded to all prize winners and to writers of other essays that the judges consider to show merit. The two best essays of the entire competition will be published online in the *Transactions of the Royal Society of South Africa*, the Society's prestigious scientific journal, and their school will receive the **Royal Society of South Africa – National Science Essay Trophy** which is sponsored by the **Claude Leon Foundation**.

PTO/....

NOTES FOR PARTICIPANTS IN THE RSSA SCIENCE ESSAY COMPETITION

Please remember to give your essay a title and to enter that title in the form at the bottom of this page, which **must accompany your entry** to the competition.

Plagiarised work, i.e. 'copied and pasted' from the Internet or directly from books, etc., will be immediately disqualified and the pupil concerned will be blacklisted from all future RSSAf competitions.

The Society is aware that some pupils have access to much better facilities and resources than others, and will take such limitations into account. If you do not have access to a typewriter or computer, then a neatly hand-written essay is perfectly acceptable, but **do not use handwriting to disguise plagiarism.**

The following notes are suggestions on how those of you with access to facilities such as books and the Internet can make the best use of them:-

1. You should not just list a series of facts taken from sources such as books, magazines or the Internet. You are expected **to explain and interpret any factual information used** in your essay. 'Copying and Pasting' directly from the Internet is not acceptable.
2. If you use material from books, magazines, the Internet etc., you should list the various references that you have used in a Bibliography at the end of your essay. If you use information from the Internet, then you should list the URL of the site and the date it was accessed. See some winning essays posted on the Royal Society Website www.royalsocietysa.org.za – **Projects.**
4. Please read through your essay carefully and make any corrections before submitting it to your teacher.

PLEASE COMPLETE THIS ENTRY FORM USING BLOCK CAPITALS

Pupil's First Name..... Surname..... Gender.....		
Pupil's Grade..... Pupil's Tel No.....		
Teacher's Name.....Teacher's Email		
School/College.....		
School Postal Address.....		
	Postcode:.....
School Tel. No:.....School Email Address :		
THE ESSAY TITLE AND SIGNED UNDERTAKING		
Your Essay Title.....		
I confirm that the above details are correct and that the Essay is ENTIRELY MY OWN WORK. I understand that by submitting this entry, I am transferring copyright of this essay to the Royal Society of South Africa. I am aware that my essay may be published online or in other media connected with this Society.		
Signed.....		Date.....

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