



LAW & JUSTICE ESSAY PRIZE FOR TERTIARY STUDENTS

The Law Foundation of South Australia was incorporated in 1985.

The objects and purposes of the Foundation include:

- (i) *the promotion or undertaking of legal research which in the opinion of the Foundation may be of value in the reform of law;*
- (ii) *the publication of materials relating to, resulting from or connected with carrying out the objects of the Foundation.*

On an annual basis, the Law Foundation of South Australia invites tertiary students to submit essays of between 2,000 and 4,000 words, exploring issues relating to law and justice. The Essay Prize will be awarded to sole authors only, with applications closing on 31 March each year. Papers will be judged by a Panel of four – one each nominated by the Law Schools of The Adelaide University, Flinders University and the University of South Australia, and one nominated by the Executive Committee of the Law Foundation.

The winner of the award will receive \$3,000 and a commemorative Certificate. The Panel may select a runner-up who will receive \$1,500 and a commemorative Certificate.

Essay entries for 2024 must comply with the following **Conditions of Entry**:

1. The author is enrolled in an undergraduate, honours, or coursework masters degree at a South Australian tertiary institution in the 2022 and/or 2023 academic years, or who was enrolled in the 2021, 2022 academic years.
2. Essays must be on a topic relating to the broad theme of ***Law and Justice***.
3. Essays must not have been previously published.
4. An essay submitted for this Prize must be the actual or revised version of one submitted for assessment as part of the course of studies in which the author was enrolled during the years of eligibility specified in **Condition 1**.
5. Essays should be between **2,000 and 4,000** words in length, with double spacing and a 12-point typeface. Essays **must not exceed** 4,000 words, including

headings. References contained in footnotes are not part of the word count, but any discussion in footnotes is included.

6. An electronic copy of the essay should be submitted.
7. The essay must have a cover sheet identifying the title of the essay, word length, name of author, contact details, institution and the course in which the student is enrolled.
8. The essay must be accompanied by written confirmation from the University that the author was enrolled in a relevant degree as specified in **Condition 1**.
9. Entries will close on **31 March 2024**.
10. The decision of the Panel is final, and if in its opinion in any given year no entry is regarded of high enough standard, the Panel may decide not to award a prize in that year.

Formal criteria for evaluation

Essays will be evaluated against the following criteria:

- (a) **Structure:** taking into account such factors as logical organisation; clarity of approach; use of sections and headings; flow of argument; internal consistency, etc.
- (b) **Research:** taking into account factors such as finding and using relevant primary authorities and secondary literature, including judgments and legislation, journal articles and scholarly treatises; avoiding the use of authorities that lack appropriate weight; updating and currency of sources relied upon; use of comparative materials where appropriate, etc.
- (c) **Coherence of argument:** taking into account factors such as statement and focus upon a clear topic; identification of relevant questions or themes; situation of arguments within an appropriate framework and context; sustaining of arguments throughout the essay; use of proper legal reasoning methodology taking into account relevant judicial hierarchies and weight of authorities; reliance upon appropriate analogies; drawing upon developments in other jurisdictions; extent to which arguments are persuasive and convincing; relating of arguments and discussion to central themes; intellectual rigour and depth evidenced, etc.

- (d) **Expression:** taking into account factors such as use of clear, precise and concise language; correct use of language; avoidance of jargon; writing in a readable style that assists comprehension; adherence to correct spelling and grammatical norms; adherence to accepted scholarly conventions relating to acknowledgement of sources, referencing and citation practices; absence of typographical and similar errors; polish, etc.

Originality, in the sense of novelty or argument, approach, analysis and so forth, will not be an essential criterion in the evaluation of the relevant merit of essays submitted for the Prize. However, it may be relied upon as a distinguishing factor in the case of essays that, based upon the above four general criteria, are judged to be of relatively similar merit.

For further information, please contact **Caroline Apps** at the Law Foundation on **0429 266 611** or email enquiries@lawfoundationsa.com.au

Entries for the Essay Prizes should be emailed to:

enquiries@lawfoundationsa.com.au