



INTERNATIONAL FORUM FOR PEACE, SECURITY AND PROSPERITY (IFPSP)
Online and in person, March 17-20, Palermo, Sicily

STUDENT CONTEST DETAILED RULES AND INSTRUCTIONS

Register for the student contest at:

[International Student Essay and Video Contest - PSP Forum \(psp-forum.org\)](http://psp-forum.org)

THE STUDENT COMPETITION

Eligibility

The essay and video competition is open to students who are currently enrolled in grades 10 to 12 or equivalent (III, IV and V above), from all NATO and EU member countries, as well as from Switzerland, Australia, New Zealand, Japan, Israel, the Philippines, South Africa, and any other country that enjoys a Western-style liberal constitutional democracy as a form of government.

Essay Topics / Video

The theme of this year's Forum is "The Impact of Contemporary Tensions, Conflict and War on Major International Institutions". Therefore, participating students will be able to compete with videos and essays on one of the following three topics:

Topic 1 : The changing world: what is happening internationally?

This title offers candidates to focus on current geopolitical forces that impact international institutions. Are these institutions structured to solve problems? What needs to change?

Topic 2 : Is the United Nations still relevant?

This title requires candidates to assess the situation and relevance of the United Nations in light of contemporary geopolitical realities. Does the United Nations still have the authority, capacity and/or will to intervene in transnational or multinational conflicts?

Topic 3 : Effect of conflicts, tensions and wars on the EU/NATO/African Union/other Grand Alliance (specify which one in the title)

This title will focus on the impact of a historical or contemporary situation, which implied a response from one of the Grand Alliances. Studies may focus on the circumstances that led to the intervention, the problems with the intervention itself, or the post-intervention impact.

Contest Dates

The student competition opens on September 21, 2023, coinciding with the United Nations' "International Day of Peace." The deadline to submit essays and videos is Friday, February 15, 2024 at 11:59 p.m. EST. No submissions will be considered if received after this date and time.

Finalists will be selected by Friday, March 1. Finalists in the essay category will be required to prepare a multimedia/PowerPoint presentation by March 10, 2024. All finalists will be encouraged to attend the Forum face-to-face or, at least, virtually.

Contest Requirements

Language of Submission

1. Essays or videos can be produced in English, French or Italian. Specifically for the essay, it can also be written in the participant's native language, provided that an approved translated copy in English, French or Italian accompanies the presentation.
2. If an essay submitted in a language other than the official languages of the competition is selected as a finalist, the IFPSP submission must be made in English.
3. Videos must not be submitted in a language other than the three official languages of the Forum.

Submission Length

4. The word count of the essay should be between 750 and 1,500, not including cover page, illustrations / photos, annexes, and bibliography. Texts must be saved as MSWord files and as PDF documents for submission.
5. Videos must be no less than two (2) minutes and no longer than three (3) minutes in length. Videos must be sent in MP4 format.

Submission Criteria

6. Essays or videos must NOT have been published or considered for publication or have already been transmitted.
7. Students must write the essay or produce the video themselves, without outside help.
8. Each student can only submit one essay or video. Students cannot compete simultaneously in both categories
9. Students can participate individually or in groups. If a group submission is chosen as a finalist, no more than 3 representatives must be selected for the presentation or to win the prize.
10. Essays must be accompanied by a cover and a signed affidavit from the School Director / Principal / Headmaster / Superintendent based on the examples found in the detailed rules published on the PSP website. Videos must also have a similar signed statement.
11. The PSP Forum will evaluate applications from each of the participating high schools and select the finalists, who will have a place in the fourth (4th) scheduled panel of the Forum, where they will virtually present their essay (supported by a multimedia presentation .ppt) or video to an international audience worldwide. The selected winners of the competition will receive certificates as part of the Forum.

12. In addition, these best essays, and videos, as well as those subject to merit review, will be published by the PSP Forum in a brochure and/or on online platforms with the names of their respective authors. The PSP Forum reserves the right to determine which essays and videos will be published.

Format Requirements – Essay:

13. All submitted essays must include the following:
1. A cover page that follows the example below;

<p style="text-align: center;">Essay</p> <p style="text-align: center;">created for the</p> <p style="text-align: center;">International Forum for Peace, Security & Prosperity</p> <p style="text-align: center;">High School Student Essay Competition</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Author:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">First Name Family name</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Age: XY years</p> <p style="text-align: center;">E-mail: XY</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Student of the (add the name of your school)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">(Add your country)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Postal Address:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">(Add the postal address of your school)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">(Add your city), Month 20XY</p>
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2. Preferred font is Times New Roman.
3. The essays must have the following structure
 1. Cover Page
 2. Table of Contents Page
 3. Abstract – Summary of the argument to be put forward
 4. Introduction
 5. Body of the Essay
 6. Conclusion
 7. Bibliography / Definition of any Abbreviations used
 8. Annexes, if any
 9. A signed affidavit as described in the annex.
 10. The table below describes the contents of each chapter.

Name of the chapter	Contents
Introduction	Should describe the essay concept – which problem should be solved? How would the author like to solve the problem?
Elaboration on the Topic	Describes what the author has done to elaborate the topic. Describes the details of the author's research. This chapter lists the results in a logical order.
Conclusions	This chapter leaves room for personal opinions of the author and concludes the essay. Pros and cons are mentioned.

4. Citations and acknowledgements will follow the rules established by the Modern Languages Association (MLA). Explanation and examples can be found at [MLA In-Text Citations: The Basics - Purdue OWL® - Purdue University](#)

Essay Evaluation Criteria

14. The evaluation of the essays will be done according to the Table here below.

Field	Percentage and maximum points
Introduction to the topic	10
Clear elaboration of the topic	15
Clarity/robustness of the arguments	15
Concise and clear conclusion	15
Originality	15
Writing style – including language & grammar – main points, sub-points, elaboration on sub-points and format	30
Total	100

Format Requirements – Video

15. All submitted videos must:
1. Be submitted in MP4 format
 2. Not be shorter than two (2) minutes in length and not be longer than three (3) minutes
 3. Be submitted with a signed affidavit as described in the annex

Video Evaluation Criteria

16. The evaluation of the videos will be done according to the Table here below.

Field	Percentage and maximum points
Relevance to the Topic / Theme	30
Respect for Format / Time Restrictions	15
Originality / Use of images to support topic	40
Narrative Writing style – including language & grammar. Clarity of sound	15
Total	100

Selection Process and Awards

First Stage at the School Level

17. The school principal or an authorised representative of the school is to:
 1. announce the essay and video competition to the students;
 2. explain the rules of the essay and video competition to the students;
 3. collect the essays and videos by a date issued by the PSP Forum Academic Director annually;
 4. select up to the best three (3) essays and / or videos based on the above-mentioned selection criteria;
 5. submit the institution's best essays and videos to the PSP Forum Selection Committee by a date issued annually; essays and videos that are not submitted by this date will NOT be considered.
 6. Every essay and video submitted by the school to the PSP Forum Selection Committee should bear the school's stamp and the signature of the principal or an authorised representative of the school at the end of each essay or on the video affidavit as confirmation that the writer(s) is / are a student at the school in the class indicated and that the essay or video is the entrant's original, unaided work.

Second Stage at the PSP Forum Level

18. The PSP Forum will evaluate the entries from each of the participating countries and select the winners, who will be given a place on the Forum's fourth panel, where they will present their essay or video virtually (supported by a multimedia / PPT presentation) to an international world-wide audience. Aside from the prestige of being a Presenter at an International Forum, the selected winners of the competition will receive trophies, in-kind awards, and certificates at a special ceremony to be held as part of the Forum each year.
19. In addition, these best essays and videos, along with those submitted for merit consideration will be published by the PSP Forum in a booklet and/or on online communication platforms with the names of

the respective writers / creators. The PSP Forum reserves the right to determine which essays and videos will be published.

Other provisions

20. The submission of an essay or video and/or participation in the organization of the competition/jury implies acceptance of the conditions of the competition.
21. The results of the competition cannot be appealed. The jury's decisions will be final.
22. The PSP Forum will preserve all essays and videos submitted by interested schools.
23. The PSP Forum will retain copyright in the winning essays and videos and may publish them.
24. The PSP Forum may change the timing of essay and video submissions and the selection process.
25. The PSP Forum assumes no responsibility for any changes or cancellations to the contest.

REGISTER FOR THE STUDENT FORUM AND CONTEST on:

[International Student Writing and Video Competition - Psp Forum \(psp-forum.org\)](http://www.psp-forum.org)

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:

Steve Gregory 514-919-5858 or Steve@isaix.com www.psp-forum.org

John Hannan 514-945-5810 or johnmacehannan@outlook.com

ANNEX

Affidavit - Essay

I / we declare that I / we have written the present essay independently and on my / our own. I / we have clearly marked any ideas borrowed from other sources as not my own and documented their sources. The essay does not contain any work that I / we have previously handed in or have had graded as a research paper or essay.

I am / we are aware that any failure to properly cite sources constitutes plagiarism. Plagiarism is the presentation of another person's thoughts or words as if they were my own, even if I / we summarise, paraphrase, condense, cut, rearrange, or otherwise alter them.

I am / we are aware of the consequences and sanctions plagiarism entails. Among others, consequences may include nullification of the essay and exclusion from participation in the PSP Forum High School Student Writing Competition. These consequences also apply retrospectively, i.e., if plagiarism is discovered after the essay has been accepted and graded.

I am / we are fully aware of the scope of these consequences.

Signature(s)

.....
(First and Last Names)

Location, Country
Month 20XY

School Stamp

Signature

.....
(First and Last Names)

School Authority
Title

ANNEX

Affidavit - Video

I / we declare that I / we have created the present video independently and on my / our own. I / we have clearly marked any ideas borrowed from other sources as not my own and documented their sources. The video does not contain any work that I / we have previously handed in or have had graded as a video.

I am / we are aware that any failure to properly cite sources constitutes plagiarism. Plagiarism is the presentation of another person's thoughts, images, or words as if they were my own, even if I / we summarise, paraphrase, condense, cut, rearrange, or otherwise alter them.

I am / we are aware of the consequences and sanctions plagiarism entails. Among others, consequences may include nullification of the video and exclusion from participation in the PSP Forum High School Student Writing Competition. These consequences also apply retrospectively, i.e., if plagiarism is discovered after the video has been accepted and graded.

I am / we are fully aware of the scope of these consequences.

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