

Essay Writing Competition

1. History and Vision

Essay writing is one of the most ancient and respected forms of literary expression. It allows individuals to present ideas, arguments, and reflections in a structured and impactful way. In many cultures, essay-like forms of storytelling, argumentation, and reflection have played a vital role in education, culture, and social discourse.

The Modern Pythian Games revive the ancient spirit of cultural and artistic excellence that the original Pythian Games of Greece celebrated. While ancient Pythian Games honoured music, poetry, dance, and athleticism, the modern iteration seeks to promote global unity and cultural harmony through diverse artistic expressions—including essay writing.

This competition is designed to cultivate critical thinking, creativity, and clear communication among participants worldwide. By providing both online and offline platforms, the Games promote inclusivity and access, empowering youth and adults alike to engage in cultural dialogue through the written word.

2. Different Names and Global Presence

Essay writing, or closely related literary formats, are recognized and practiced worldwide with various local names:

- Essay (English-speaking countries, including India, USA, UK, Australia)
- Dissertation or Thesis (Academic contexts globally, though longer and more formal)
- Réflexion écrite (French-speaking countries)
- Sammel (Russian essay/reflective writing)
- Сочинение (Sochinenie - Russian, meaning a composition or essay)
- Aufsatz (German)
- Composición (Spanish-speaking countries)
- Tema (Italian and some Latin countries, meaning theme or essay)
- 文章 (Wénzhāng) (Chinese, meaning article or essay)
- Escrito (Portuguese and Spanish)

Essay writing or equivalent compositions are formally taught and practiced in school systems of over 100 countries, making this form one of the most globally widespread literary arts.

3. What is Essay Writing?

Essay writing is a structured written composition that presents the author's argument, perspective, or reflections on a specific topic. It includes:

- Introduction: Sets the stage and presents the thesis or main idea.
- Body: Contains logically organized paragraphs that support the thesis with facts, reasoning, examples, or narratives.
- Conclusion: Summarizes the argument and provides closure or insight.

Essays may be descriptive, narrative, argumentative, expository, or reflective, depending on the assigned topic or theme.

4. Age Categories

Participants must register in one of the following age groups:

- Sub-Junior: 8 to 12 years
- Junior: 13 to 17 years
- Senior: 18 to 25 years
- Open: 26 years and above

5. Eligibility Criteria

These criteria apply to all Pythian Games competitions, including essay writing:

- For national or state-level events: Participants must be citizens or residents of the respective country for at least one year.
- For international events: Open to global participants from any country.
- Valid proof of age and identity is mandatory.
- For minors, a signed consent form from a parent or guardian is required.
- Participants must carefully read and comply with the eligibility criteria for each event.

6. Entry Process

Online Submission:

- Register through the official Pythian Games portal.
- Upload your essay in PDF or DOC format.
- Submit required documents: short bio-data, signed consent/declaration, proof of age, and selected essay topic.

Offline Submission:

- Submit a printed essay copy with registration and supporting documents by post or at designated collection centers.

7. Essay Guidelines

Word Limits:

- Sub-Junior: 300–400 words
- Junior: 500–700 words
- Senior: 800–1000 words
- Open: 1000–1200 words

Formatting:

- Typed or neatly handwritten (for offline).
- Typed entries: Times New Roman, font size 12, 1-inch margins on all sides.

Language:

- Entries accepted in English, Hindi, or any approved regional or international language.

Essay Topics:

Themes will be provided, examples include:

- Peace and Harmony
- Environment and Sustainability
- Indian Culture and Heritage
- Youth and Technology
- Role of Art in Society
- Global Citizenship

8. Judging Panel

The jury will include:

- Lead Judge: Author, editor, or senior language educator.
- Content Judge: Subject matter expert relevant to the essay topic.
- Language Judge: Literature professor or critic.
- Guest Judge: Journalist, public speaker, or respected cultural figure.

Panels will consist of an odd number of judges (3–5) for unbiased decisions. Different panels may be appointed for preliminary and final rounds.

9. Judging Criteria

Each essay is evaluated equally on these parameters out of 100 marks:

- Structure and Organisation
- Clarity and Argumentation
- Creativity and Originality
- Language and Grammar
- Relevance to the Theme

10. Rules and Legal Safeguards

General Rules:

- Essays must be original and unpublished.
- Use of offensive language, plagiarism, or AI-generated content is prohibited.
- Word limits and formatting rules must be strictly followed.
- Late or incomplete entries will be disqualified.

Copyright:

Participants retain ownership but grant non-exclusive rights to the organizers for:

- Publishing (print/digital)
- Promotion for educational or cultural purposes
- Archiving with author credit

Consent Declaration:

"I confirm this is my original work. I grant the organizers non-exclusive rights to publish, promote, or archive my essay with full credit."

Disqualification:

For plagiarism, offensive content, or rule violations. Decisions of the jury are final.

Dispute Resolution:

Legal matters will be handled by the jurisdiction of the host city/state. An internal committee will address complaints.

11. Awards and Recognition

- Gold Medal and Winner Certificate (1st place)
- Silver Medal and Runner-up Certificate (2nd place)
- Bronze Medal and Merit Certificate (3rd place)
- Certificate of Achievement for finalists
- Certificate of Participation for all valid entries

Top performers may be featured in official publications and invited to cultural showcases at national or international levels.