



“Debate changed my life”

INTERNATIONAL ESSAY CONTEST FOR YOUNG DEBATERS

IDEA is an association of 19 network debate organizations who educate young people to debate. Together we are one of the world's leading provider of debate education, providing resources, training and events to educators and young people. IDEA works with schools and universities, debate organizations and community groups and partners with foundations, NGOs, businesses, and governments. IDEA celebrates its 20th anniversary in November 2019 and therefore we launch the International Essay Contest ‘Debate changed my Life’.

INTRODUCTION

This essay contest is organized in an effort to highlight the impact of debate education on the life of young debaters. We want to share how debate education can shape the society into a more inclusive model. We specifically want to invite young voices to speak about their experiences to politicians and stakeholders. That is why we want to use this essay contest to find inspiring young people who can participate in a high-level debate in the European Parliament together with politicians and European-level policy makers.

This contest is an activity within the framework of IDEA “Debate changes your life” campaign co-funded by Europe for Citizens Programme of the European Union.

THEME

“Debate changed my life”

What value does debate education hold for you personally?

Where do you see the value for debate education in your society?

What goal do you want to reach or have already reached due to debate education?

Carry out the answer of these questions, and then use your experience as a stimulus in writing the essay.



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Extra suggestions: Which important social-political topics should be discussed in your country, and why? How is this topic currently discussed? What is your own perspective on it, and why do you hold that view? What are other perspectives of young people and why do they hold them? What is the role of debate education in discussing this topic?

REQUIREMENTS FOR PARTICIPANTS

Any participant must:

- live or hold the nationality of one of the countries¹ where members of IDEA operate;
- be recognized as debater or connected to debate education by the IDEA's Member of the country they represent;
- be in high school or pursuing an undergraduate degree at tertiary level or working, but in any case, up to 25 years of age.

GUIDELINES

- Essays must be submitted in one of the following categories: High School (ages up to 18) or Tertiary Education (ages 18-25);
- Essays must be 1000 words or less in English, excluding essay title and cover page;
- Essays must be original. Plagiarism is an exclusion criteria.
- Essays could be written by one person, but co-authored essays are also accepted. In that case, the participants must be classified in the same category.
- Essays must be submitted by sending an email to dwelling@idebate.nl under the header "Debate changed my life Essay Contest".
- Entries must include a short brief indicating:
 - Name of the author or authors (in case of co-authored essay),
 - Email,

¹ IDEA count members in the following countries: Czech Republic, Romania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Turkey, Latvia, Greece, Lithuania, Estonia, Haiti, Ukraine, Serbia, Slovakia, Germany, North Macedonia, Slovenia, Spain, Croatia, Poland and The Netherlands.



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- Mobile Telephone (or a telephone number from someone who can reach you)
 - Category (High School or Tertiary Education),
 - Age as of October 7, 2019,
 - Nationality,
 - The name of the debate education organization the participant is/has been connected,
 - Essay title,
 - Word count.
 - In the case of co-authored essay, all the above information must be completed for all the authors.
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- The participant agrees to yield the copyright of the essay submitted to IDEA

ESSAY CRITERIA FOR BEST ESSAY

An international panel of reviewers will score each essay on 4 criteria with a 1-10 score per criteria. The essays with the highest average scores will be declared winning essays.

The criteria are:

- Ability in answering the Essay Question;
- Argumentation and logic applied in the Essay;
- Creativity and originality of the chosen approach;
- Use of correct and flowing English;

DEADLINE

Entries must be received by October 7, 2019 midnight (your local time).



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AWARDS FOR ALL NOMINATED WINNERS

Three *nominated winners* in each category will be selected. All six will receive an award certificate. The nominated and winning essays will be published on the IDEA website and social media.

We will contact the *nominated winners* at October 15th by mail.

PRICE FINAL WINNERS : AWARDED in the European Parliament

Out of the six nominated winners, we will select two final winners (one for category high school, one for category tertiary level). They will be invited to the international "Debate changes your life" event to be held in Brussels, Belgium from 8-12 November 2019. The event will be hosted in the European Parliament, where the winners will be awarded.

After the announcement (at October 15th) the two winners will directly receive a telephone call. We will start working to organize the logistic arrangements to facilitate the winners on their way to Brussels.

Transport, food and accommodation expenses will be covered by IDEA. The winners will travel with a Chaperone from their country's Debate Organisation to and from Brussels. Winners will be announced on October 15, 2019 on the IDEA website (<https://nl.idebate.org>).

Please note that we have a price for two persons only, so in case of co-authorship only one can come to Brussels for the award.

QUESTIONS

For any further questions on this Essay Contest, please contact **Daan Welling at the IDEA Office through dwelling@idebate.nl**.



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