

AAAS Science and Human Rights Coalition 2021 Student Essay Competition

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: 4 JUNE 2021

Undergraduate and graduate students are invited to participate in the [AAAS Science and Human Rights Coalition](#) Essay Competition. This essay competition was created to inspire students to explore connections between human rights and science, engineering and the health professions. Students may write on any topic at the intersection of science and/or technology with human rights.

Eligibility

1. The competition is open to all undergraduate and graduate students who, at the time of entry, are enrolled full- or part-time at an accredited, degree-granting institution of higher education seeking an undergraduate (two- or four-year) or graduate degree.
2. Students may be enrolled in any discipline. Students enrolled in life science, physical science, social science, health, engineering or mathematics programs are especially encouraged to participate.
3. Students may be enrolled in any accredited college or university. There is no geographic restriction.
4. Submissions should be written in the form of an analytical or critical paper that shows deep, careful thinking, a consideration of different perspectives, and raises thought-provoking questions. For example, potential essay topics might include: the applications of a scientific approach or a new technology to address specific human rights concerns; an analysis of connections between human rights obligations and the social responsibilities of scientists, engineers and/or health professionals; or the ways in which full implementation of the right to enjoy the benefits of scientific progress may influence realization of other human rights. These examples are only provided to spark ideas: students are encouraged to write essays that reflect their own ideas, interests, and insights.
5. Papers written for courses are eligible, but all papers must be the original, unpublished work of an individual student.
6. Each student may submit only one essay.
7. Entries must be submitted online through the essay competition website, which will be open from 1 May 12:00 am EDT to 4 June 11:59 pm EDT. Late submissions will not be accepted.

Requirements

1. Essays should be no more than 1,500 words in length.

2. A complete bibliography should be included, if appropriate. The bibliography and/or footnotes will not count towards the word limit.
3. Essays should be typed and double-spaced, in an easily readable font (such as Times New Roman), with 1" margins.
4. All pages must include the title of the essay and page numbers.
5. Submissions will be judged anonymously so please do not include any personally identifying information (name, university) in the essay document.
6. Essays must be submitted in English.

Essay Judging

Essays will be evaluated for:

- (1) Evidence of original thought and creativity on important human rights issues and scientific challenges;
- (2) Analysis and reasoning;
- (3) Writing quality and clarity;
- (4) Compliance with the essay competition requirements.

Judges for the competition will be drawn from among the representatives of AAAS Science and Human Rights Coalition Member Associations, as well as Affiliated Individual members of the Coalition. Prominent scientists and engineers from outside the Coalition membership and experienced human rights advocates will also be invited to serve as judges.

Prizes

Prizes will be awarded in the following categories: 1) Undergraduate student and 2) Graduate student.

The two winning students will be recognized at the virtual October 2021 Science, Technology and Human Rights Conference presented by the AAAS Science and Human Rights Coalition. Winners of the competition will receive a year of membership in AAAS and a one-year subscription to *Science*. Because the 2021 conference is being held virtually, instead of the usual travel stipend to attend the conference, each recipient will receive a **\$1,500 cash prize**, generously provided by the [AAAS-Andrew M. Sessler Fund for Science, Education, and Human Rights](#). Students who receive prizes will be asked to support AAAS stewardship of the Sessler Fund by providing feedback about their experience in the competition. The winning essays will be considered for publication by the AAAS Scientific Responsibility, Human Rights and Law Program.

How to Enter

1. Submit your essay through the essay competition website, <https://shrstudentessay.aaas.org>, which will be open 1 May 2021 through 4 June 2021.
2. The essay may be submitted in either Microsoft Word or Adobe PDF format.

General Prize Conditions

Employees of AAAS, its affiliates, subsidiaries, advertising or promotional agencies, suppliers,

vendors and/or service providers, and their immediate family members or persons living in the same household are not eligible.

The potential Winner will be required to execute an Affidavit of Eligibility, Release of Liability and Prize Acceptance Form (collectively, the "Prize Claim Documents"). If the Winner fails or refuses to sign and return the Prize Claim Documents within three (3) days of prize notification, the Winner may be disqualified. Prizes are not transferable and not assignable. Sponsor reserves the right to substitute prize(s) of comparable or greater value in the event a prize or any portion thereof becomes unavailable for any reason. The Winner shall be solely responsible for all taxes and fees or costs associated with the prize, including but not limited to any federal or state or other income tax

Rights

Participants retain ownership of materials submitted to the Competition. However, by submitting any essay to the Competition, students hereby grant to AAAS and its affiliates, subsidiaries, licensees and assigns, an irrevocable, perpetual and royalty-free right to use, reproduce, edit, display, transmit, prepare derivative works of, modify, publish and otherwise make use of the submitted essay in any and all media, whether now known or hereinafter created, throughout the world and for any purpose. Where practicable, the essay will be attributed to the author(s) and the college or university the student(s) attend.

In addition, by submitting any essay or other content to the Competition, participants hereby represent and warrant that the submitted materials do not and shall not infringe on any copyright or other right of any third party, and that participant has the right to grant any and all rights and licenses granted to AAAS herein, including but not limited to all necessary rights under copyright, free and clear of any claims or encumbrances.

Release

Acceptance of a prize constitutes the Winner's permission for AAAS to use prize winner's name and likeness for advertising and/or promotional purposes worldwide and in all forms of media in perpetuity without further compensation or authorization. Participants agree that AAAS and its affiliates, and their officers, employees, agents and representatives (collectively, the "Sponsoring Entities"), shall not be responsible for any losses, damages or injuries of any kind resulting from participation in the Competition or from Participants' acceptance, receipt, possession and/or use or misuse of any prize. Participants also agree that the Sponsoring Entities have not made and shall not in any manner be liable for any warranty, guarantee, or representation, whether express or implied, with respect to any prize, including without limitation, the prize's quality or fitness for a particular purpose. AAAS reserves the right in its sole discretion to disqualify any individual who is found to be tampering with the entry process or the operation of the Competition, to be acting in violation of these Official Rules, or who otherwise takes actions that do or are intended to disrupt or undermine the legitimate operation of the Competition. AAAS also reserves the right in its sole discretion to disqualify any entry containing any obscene, offensive or otherwise inappropriate comments or other matter. Further, AAAS assumes no liability, and shall not be liable, for typographical or other errors in the offer or administration of the Competition including, without limitation, errors in the printing or display of the offer and official rules, selection, notification and announcement of winners.

Governing Law

All issues and questions concerning the construction, validity, interpretation and enforceability of these Official Rules shall be governed and construed in accordance with the internal laws of the State of New York without regard to the choice of law provisions thereof.

Name of Winner

For the name of winners, refer to <http://aaas.org/coalition/> or send, within six months from the end of the Entry Period, a self-addressed, stamped envelope to: AAAS Scientific Responsibility, Human Rights and Law Program, 1200 New York Avenue, N.W., Washington, DC 20005. Washington and Vermont residents may omit return postage.

More information about the competition is available at: <https://www.aaas.org/shr2021essay>.

Questions should be directed to Theresa Harris at tharris@aaas.org / +1 (202) 326-6796.