

Whitlam Institute

WITHIN WESTERN SYDNEY UNIVERSITY



TELL US
WHAT MATTERS
TO YOU

Enter at whitlam.org/whatmatters

COMPETITION CLOSSES 8 MAY 2020

WESTERN SYDNEY
UNIVERSITY



Why you should ask 'what matters' to your students



In the sixteen years since *What Matters?* began, we have received over thirty thousand entries expressing what matters to young Australians.

Like you, we are always looking for ways to empower young people to engage in the world around them and express their voice. Our *What Matters?* writing competition provides an excellent platform for them to do just this.

The Whitlam Institute wants to hear *What Matters?* to your students and we look forward to reading the entries from your school in 2020.

Leanne Smith

Director
The Whitlam Institute



What Matters? is more than just a writing competition. It is an opportunity to explore your students' perspectives, challenge them to think critically and address key curriculum areas.

Information on the links between the *What Matters?* writing competition and curriculum areas can be found online at whitlam.org/whatmatters

WHAT MATTERS? is easy to enter

- Students write a 400-600 word piece on 'what matters' to them and why – fact or fiction, poetry or prose
- Entries are submitted online at whitlam.org/whatmatters
- Parent/guardian/teacher permission is required
- One entry per student
- All entries are reviewed by our team of qualified markers
- All entrants will receive a certificate of participation
- Curriculum resources, competition guidelines and writing tips are available at whitlam.org/whatmatters

2019 Finalists

MIA

For many, it is difficult to understand the severity of the situation from numbers on the page. For this generation, we don't need to. We see the consequences.

The climate strikes which students across the world have been attending for the past months are not a request for action.

They are a demand... This is my home. This is our home. It deserves to matter.



EMILYANA

The neighbours didn't say anything, but they all knew. How could they have missed the symphony of pain that danced into the neighbourhood each night? I don't blame them, though. They could have hounded the police who would've paid us yet another little visit, but that would have ended as every fight did; painfully.



LOUIS

I can see how the polarisation of our opinions is destroying the middle ground we once held together, I can feel the perfectly good bridge being burned leaving nothing behind but a gaping chasm; yet I don't know what I can do to stop it. How can we create meaningful solutions, how can we solve real problems, when we can't even listen to each other?



GREAT PRIZES

Over \$4000 in prizes to be won

YEAR PRIZES

Prizes are awarded in 4 categories:

- Year 5/6, 7/8, 9/10 and 11/12
- \$350 – category winner
- \$200 – category runner-up
- Finalists' entries will be published in print and online.
- Year 5/6 and 7/8 category finalists will receive a full-day writing workshop from The Writing Workshop, by award-winning author Bernard Cohen.
- Year 9/10 category winner will spend a day at ReachOut.com, meeting their team and receiving professional training, with the opportunity to be paid \$200 to produce a feature article for the ReachOut.com website.
- The Year 11/12 category winner will receive a 1 Year Membership to Writing NSW and the opportunity to participate in a one-day writing workshop* donated by Writing NSW.

SCHOOL AWARDS

- Most Engaged School – The school that submits the most entries in 2020 will receive a free two-day civics education workshop, delivered on-site at the winning school by the Whitlam Institute Civics Education Officer.
- WestWords Author Visit – One participating school will be given the opportunity to host an author at their school thanks to WestWords.

OVERALL WINNER

The Overall Competition Winner will receive

- An Ipad
- A day* at the Museum of Australian Democracy (MoAD) at Old Parliament House in Canberra – meeting a curator, getting behind the scenes and contributing to MoAD's programs.

ARTISTIC MERIT AWARD

An entry that possesses special imaginative qualities, achieved through the exceptionally creative use of language and/or an outstanding concept will receive a mentorship program with a published author courtesy of Varuna, the National Writers' House.

GRAHAM FREUDENBERG AWARD

A year 11/12 entry that presents outstanding commentary on Australian social and political issues and argues cogently for policy ideas and solutions will be awarded a trip to Canberra to spend the day at Parliament House to shadow political speechwriters and journalists in the Press Gallery.

*Conditions apply. Please see whitlam.org/whatmatters for more info.

THE WHITLAM INSTITUTE

The Whitlam Institute within Western Sydney University is a nationally significant institution delivering distinctive, bold and inspiring policy research and programs that promote common ground, inclusive national identity and civic engagement for all Australians. We seek to be recognised across the political spectrum as delivering a nation-building agenda.

CIVICS EDUCATION

We believe that empowering young people to constructively participate as citizens is the best way to preserve a healthy democracy. Our school programs inspire young people to think critically and to take action on the things that matter to them.

Guided by the Whitlam Program, which sought to "involve the people of Australia in the decision-making processes of our land", we are seeking to support a generation of citizens who will have the requisite knowledge, interest and political understanding to confidently wield their vote and their voice.



whitlam.org

Whitlam Institute
Locked Bag 1797
Penrith NSW 2751

T: + 61 2 9685 9210





WHAT MATTERS?

WRITING COMPETITION 2020

CLOSES FRIDAY 8 MAY 2020

Enter at whitlam.org/whatmatters

Win a share of \$4000 in prizes.

PROUDLY SUPPORTED BY

