

Summer Writing Challenge 2026

Who's it for?

Anyone aged between 13-19 who is interested in developing their ability to write long-form arguments with precision and clarity.

What is it?

Unlike many essay competitions, the Summer Writing Challenge is an ongoing written conversation. Participants will receive feedback on structure, as well as rebuttal to their arguments to help them improve and refine until they have perfected their essay.

What can I write about?

Participants can choose any of the essay titles on the following page or can create a title of their own to submit for approval.

How do I take part?

Once you have chosen your essay title, fill in the registration form. You will receive details of the next steps via email within 7 days.

Essay Questions

1

“Never has humanity had such power over itself.” Pope Francis 2015. Is he right? And if so, is that a good thing?

2

“Beauty is truth, truth beauty,
That is all ye know on earth, and all ye need to know.” John Keats.
Is it?

3

“In this age, the mere example of non-conformity, the mere refusal to bend the knee to custom, is itself a service.” John Stuart Mill. Is non-conformity a failing or a virtue?

4

According to Thomas Hobbes, war is the natural state of man. Do you agree? Is a world without war possible as long as mankind exists?

5

“There is no such thing as a moral or an immoral book. Books are well written, or badly written. That is all.” Oscar Wilde. 1891.
Is art amoral?