



ESSAY WRITING COMPETITION 2024

Analyse the role of digital financial inclusion and literacy in ensuring the economic development of Mauritius.



GENERAL GUIDELINES

Bank of Mauritius Essay Competition 2024

The Bank of Mauritius invites college students in their last year of Secondary studies (HSC/A Level/ Baccalaureate or equivalent), and university students in their final year of Undergraduate studies (B.Sc./B.A./LLB or equivalent professional qualifications) to contribute their unique perspectives in an essay competition of which the theme is:

Analyse the role of digital financial inclusion and literacy in ensuring the economic development of Mauritius

Essays must be submitted by groups comprising a minimum of three (3) and a maximum of five (5) students. Participants can be part of only one group, and only one submission can be made by any participating group.

Essays should be submitted in English. Entry to the competition is free and is open only to persons studying in the Republic of Mauritius.

The Bank of Mauritius will only accept submissions made through the dedicated Essay Competition 2024 portal that will be live from the 10th of April 2024 to the 14th of May 2024 on www.bom.mu/essaycompetition2024

Theme: *Analyse the role of digital financial inclusion and literacy in ensuring the economic development of Mauritius.*

Word Limit:

| | Secondary Level | University Level |
|----------|-----------------|------------------|
| Essay | 2,500 words | 5,000 words |
| Abstract | 200 words | 300 words |

Competition Opens: 1st of April 2024

Essay Submission Deadline: 14th of May 2024

Result Announcement: 31st of May 2024

Prizes:

| | Secondary Level | University Level |
|--------------|---|---|
| Winning team | A cash prize of Rs 100,000 and an opportunity for a one-month internship at the Bank of Mauritius | A cash prize of Rs 150,000 and an opportunity for a three-month internship at the Bank of Mauritius |
| Runner Up | A cash prize of Rs 50,000 | A cash prize of Rs 75,000 |

An Award Ceremony will be held at the Bank of Mauritius in June 2024. The date will be communicated in due course.

For any clarification on the Bank of Mauritius Essay Competition 2024, please contact the Communications team by email on communications@bom.mu

GENERAL GUIDELINES

No Entry Fee: There are no fees required to enter this essay competition. It is open to all eligible participants without any cost.

Language: English

Academic Integrity: The essay competition upholds the most stringent level of academic integrity. Participants are expected to adhere strictly to these standards.

Original Work: Each essay must be the original work of the participant. The use of AI tools for assistance in writing is strictly prohibited. Essays must reflect the participant's own ideas, analysis, and expression.

Plagiarism: Plagiarism will not be tolerated. Any essay indicating any form of plagiarism will be immediately disqualified from the competition. Participants must ensure that the essay submitted is completely their own with the proper referencing of sources. All essays will be checked for plagiarism using appropriate software.

Sole authorship required: Participants are allowed to seek advice and discuss the theme of the essay with persons outside their group but they must ensure that no other person is involved in the actual writing of the essay. All submissions should be the own work of the members of the participating group. Any form of co-authorship is strictly forbidden.

One Essay Submission and Single Question Focus: Each participating group is allowed to submit only one essay.

Endorsement from the College/University and Referee Contact: Participants may at some point be required to submit a letter from their academic institution confirming that they are enrolled as students for the current academic year. The email of an adult academic reference (such as a school teacher or university lecturer) will be required during the essay submission process. In the event that further academic verification is needed, the Bank of Mauritius will reach out to the academic institution/referee for more information. The academic institution/referee will also be notified of the outcome of the competition.

ELIGIBILITY

The essay competition is open to college students in their last year of secondary studies (HSC/A Level/ Baccalaureate or equivalent), and university students in their final year of Undergraduate studies (B.Sc./B.A./LLB or equivalent academic or professional qualifications). Participants should be enrolled in academic institutions in the Republic of Mauritius (Mauritius, Rodrigues and Agalega) which are duly recognized by the Ministry of Education, Tertiary Education, Science and Technology. The essay must be submitted on a group basis. A minimum of three (3) and a maximum of five (5) students is allowed per group.

FORMAT GUIDELINES

The essay must be in English and must not exceed the word limit defined for each category. The word count excludes footnotes, bibliography, charts and tables. Please use a consistent font format and set the line spacing to 1.5 space.

All submissions should be properly cited. The citation format for this competition is the Harvard referencing style.

JUDGING CRITERIA

All submissions will be subject to a double-blind review process. Essays will be reviewed by an independent panel of judges consisting of seasoned professionals with a proven track record in economics, banking and finance.

Double-Blind Review: Double-blind essay review is a process used in academic or scholarly publishing where both the reviewers and the authors are anonymous to each other. In this system, the identities of the authors are kept confidential from the reviewers, and vice versa. This approach aims to minimise biases that could arise from knowledge of the author's identity, academic affiliation, or reputation.

Original and interesting ideas: The competition aims to motivate students to deeply reassess and contemplate the interconnections of science, society, and the global environment. Original thoughts and perspectives are greatly encouraged.

Quality of Argument and Writing: Clear writing and well-substantiated arguments are crucial. This means that essays should be well-structured, with each claim or argument supported by evidence or logical reasoning. Additionally, the judges will consider the style of writing, which includes language use, idea flow, and overall engagement with the topics.

Plagiarism and AI Assistance: The competition has a strict policy against plagiarism and the use of AI writing assistance. Essays found to contain plagiarism will automatically be disqualified. This means students must ensure their work is entirely their own.

WHAT SHOULD AN EXCELLENT ESSAY LOOK LIKE?

The essay should demonstrate:

Critical Analysis: Demonstrate a strong ability to analyse and evaluate the topic with an open mind and a willingness to engage with the topic on a deeper level. This involves breaking down the subject matter into its constituent parts, examining each aspect thoroughly, and considering its implications from multiple perspectives, while highlighting the underlying assumptions, strengths, weaknesses, and potential consequences associated with the topic.

Originality and Depth: Strive to present unique insights and delve deeply into the intricacies of the topic. Avoid reiterating commonly held opinions; instead, offer fresh perspectives or angles that haven't been widely explored. Delve into the nuances and complexities of the subject matter, considering its implications beyond the surface level.

Evidence and Research: Support your arguments and claims with robust evidence from reputable sources. Conduct thorough research using credible academic references, scholarly articles, historical data, or empirical studies. Incorporate data-driven insights and relevant examples to strengthen your essay's credibility.

Clarity and Structure: Ensure your essay is well-organised and easy to follow. Begin with a clear introduction that sets the stage for your discussion, followed by a structured body that logically presents your arguments and evidence. Use transitions to create a seamless flow between ideas and conclude succinctly, summarising your key points without introducing new information.

Critical Thinking and Creativity: Encourage unconventional thinking and imaginative approaches to the topic. Challenge conventional wisdom by exploring alternative viewpoints or proposing innovative solutions. Apply creative thinking to address the complexities of the subject matter, fostering a unique perspective that stands out in the discourse.

Form and Style: Pay attention to the essay's structure and writing style. Strive for a cohesive and engaging narrative that captivates the reader. Experiment with different writing styles, ensuring clarity, coherence, and an appropriate tone that resonates with the subject matter. Consider using vivid language, effective metaphors, and eloquent prose to enhance the essay's impact.

CHECKLIST BEFORE SUBMISSION

Before submitting your essay, please review the following checklist to ensure your essay meets all the necessary criteria:

Word Count and Format: Your essay should adhere to the word limit specified for each category. The word count excludes footnotes and bibliography. Do not forget to set the line spacing set to 1.5. Please craft the abstract carefully as it should capture the essence of the essay and showcase the quality of the submission in terms of ideas and writing style.

Argument Support: All arguments should be well-supported with evidence and reasoning. Provide sufficient justification for your viewpoints.

Clarity and Accuracy: Check your essay thoroughly for typos and ambiguities, and ensure that the language used is clear and accurate. Ideas must be properly formulated and expressed.

Anonymity for Double-Blind Review: Ensure that all names and any reference to affiliations with academic institutions are removed from the essay itself. Participants will be asked to provide names and other personal information on the essay submission system portal. As such, the essay document should not contain any personal identifiers to ensure a fair and unbiased review process.

Citation and Referencing: All sources must be cited. All sources and references must be precisely documented as per the Harvard referencing method.

HOW TO SUBMIT YOUR ESSAY

Both the essay and the abstract must be submitted as **PDF documents** via the dedicated submission platform which is accessible on **www.bom.mu/essaycompetition2024**

Participants will be requested to provide personal information only during the essay submission process. It is mandatory for participants to provide accurate and verified information in all sections.

To ensure a proper double-blind review process, please ensure that the PDF documents submitted do not contain the names of participants, references to academic affiliations and information that can help identification in any way whatsoever.