



PARLIAMENT
Republic of Trinidad and Tobago

Levels G - 8, Tower D
The Port-of-Spain International Waterfront Centre
1A Wrightson Road, Port - of - Spain

PARLIAMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

Essay Competition
Instruction Manual

“In the Commission’s report “Our Common Future,” we warned that global trends already underway – climate change, desertification, forest degradation, water scarcity, declining biodiversity, and increasing dependence on dirty and dangerous sources of energy – were not only unsustainable but posed a grave threat to the well-being and security of future generations. Today most of these trends continue, and in some cases, they are even accelerating.” We need to step up the pace of change. (Brundtland, 2012)

Brundtland, D. G. (2012). *United Nations Foundation*.
Retrieved from <http://www.unfoundation.org/news-and-media/publications-and-speeches/managing-our-environment.html?referrer=https://www.google.tt/>



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ESSAY COMPETITION “Saving Energy, Saving our Planet” INSTRUCTION MANUAL

1.0 Background

- 1.1 The United Nations has advocated that reducing the amount of energy the world consumes, is a primary step in combating global warming. Research by the International Energy Agency, estimates that almost one-half of the necessary climate mitigation will need to come from improved energy efficiency. Climate Scientists postulate, that benefits of energy efficiency are universal and arriving at an international agreement to unlock these opportunities is another critical step, towards emissions reductions and curtailing the effects of climate change.
- 1.2 Environmentalists and conservationists have argued that part of the energy efficiency debate is energy and resource conservation. Thus, energy efficiency is closely linked to sustainable development as we must meet the resource needs of the present without compromising future generations. The goal with energy conservation techniques is to reduce demand, protect and replenish supplies, develop and use alternative energy sources and to rectify the damage where possible.
- 1.3 **“As an Inclusive Commonwealth”** a platform to voice the concerns of the poorest, smallest and most vulnerable states on an international level is provided as nations tackle the issues of climate change, energy efficiency and conservation. The Commonwealth’s inclusive approach stimulates cooperation and helps to achieve results as priority policies advocated by the Commonwealth are now part of G20 discussions.



1.4 It is against this backdrop that the essay competition drives its theme and poses the question to the youth and seeks to capture their perspectives and thoughts on ***Saving Energy, Saving the Planet.***

2.0 Introduction

2.1 In an effort to build awareness on the importance of managing and conserving energy, the Parliament of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago obtained consent from the Ministry of Education to conduct an essay competition in all Secondary Schools during the period March 14 to April 22, 2016.

2.2 The competition is geared towards increasing awareness of climate change and an understanding for the need for energy efficiency. The competition also facilitates healthy competition.

3.0 The Office of the Parliament

3.1 The vision of the Parliament of the Republic Trinidad and Tobago is to be a modern Parliament that fulfils its constitutional duties and effectively serve the people of Trinidad and Tobago through the following core values:

Independence
Integrity
Openness
Professionalism

The Parliament of Trinidad and Tobago in its thrust to become a modern Parliament has identified 4 areas of strategic interventions aimed at its strengthening. One of those areas identified is in its Outreach which includes among other things “the institutionalisation of youth-focused public outreach” – UNDP project report Strengthening the Parliament of Trinidad and Tobago (2014).



At the 4th World Conference of Speakers of Parliament at the United Nations Headquarters in September 2015, the Members accepted that Parliaments have a role in ensuring the implementation of the new Sustainable Development Goals. This Essay Competition is, therefore, considered one facet in the public outreach to the Youth by the Parliament of Trinidad and Tobago and in the Parliament's role in sensitising our Youth to the urgent need for preserving our planet for future generations with specific focus on energy efficiency and energy depletion

4.0 The Competition

4.1 Target Group: Students within Forms two (2) and three (3)

4.2 Target Schools: All Secondary Schools in Trinidad and Tobago

5.0 Competition Activities

Activity	Date
Essay Launch	Monday, March 14, 2016
Start Date	Tuesday, March 15, 2016
Submission Date	Friday, April 15, 2016
Announcement of Winners	3-4 weeks after closure
Prize-giving	2 weeks post

6.0 Guidelines

6.1 The Essay Competition is geared towards promoting awareness among young people on the significance of energy conservation. Please be guided by the following information:

- i. The essay is a group project
- ii. A group shall consist of no more than 8 students from the same school and within the target group.
- iii. There shall be permitted a maximum of two (2) entries per school

6.2 All essays must be submitted with a completed Entry Form and a covering letter from School Principals to essaycompetition@ttparliament.org no later than 4:15 p.m. on Friday 22 April,



2016.

6.3 Essays shall be the property of the Office of the Parliament for any subsequent use.

6.4 The grading of the essays will be done by a panel of judges selected by the Office of the Parliament.

6.5 The decision of the judges is final.

7.0 Objectives of the Competition

7.1 The Essay Competition will present an opportunity to build and develop competencies among Secondary School students on tools and processes that can be used to conserve energy as well as attain the following objectives:

- 1) Provide critical information to the young people on the importance of conserving energy.
- 2) To contribute to the education of the Secondary School population.
- 3) To generate interest into ways/methods that can be used to conserve energy.

8.0 Essay Questions

8.1 Students are required to choose one (1) topic from the following list:

- 1) Discuss the role of social media in the promotion of energy conservation in the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago.
- 2) In light of the global trends of climate change, what strategies can the youth use to assist in the conservation of energy?
- 3) What are the challenges facing the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago in the present global environment where energy conservation is concerned and how can these challenges be



addressed?

- 4) In CARICOM, the situation regarding sustainable energy policies and their implementation has been uncoordinated and the results mixed, to say the least. *(Extracted from: "A Review of the Status of the Interconnection of Distributed Renewables to the Grid in CARICOM Countries" available at <http://www.credp.org>).* In light of the preceding statement, if you were a leader of a CARICOM country what regional approach will you take to sustainable development?
- 5) If you were a Legislator of your country what proposals would you make for the formulation and implementation of policies on energy conservation.

9.0 Essay Requirements

All submissions are required to be a minimum of 1,200, at the same time essays must not exceed 1,500 words, since this will result in disqualification. It is important for essays to be:

- 1) Original
- 2) Creative
- 3) Factual

9.1 Content

It is important that the students:

- 1) Understand the requirements of the question.
- 2) Research the information carefully.
- 3) Develop arguments and address all the points that will be covered (ensuring that the question is fully answered).

9.2 Text

- Students may quote from a relevant text/source. All quotes must be in quotation marks and properly referenced;



- Work can be supported with examples, relevant opinions and ideas, or placed within the context of existing knowledge; and
- Do not copy verbatim (plagiarize) whole sections or chapters from text books/sources. Writing in your own words, with relevant quotes, will show whether or not the question is fully understood.

9.3 Spelling

- Standard English must be used.
- Always check your spelling.
- Ensure that all sentences are grammatically correct.

9.4 Presentation

All entries must be:

- Type written
- Sentences must be double spaced
- Page margins – 2.5 centimeters
- Font type – Times New Roman size 12 or Arial size 12
- Pages must be numbered
- Essays must be submitted with a completed entry form containing the following information:
 - The name, age range, address, telephone number and email address of the groups;
 - The name, address, telephone number and email address of the student's school;
 - The names of the principal and class teacher; and
- The topic.
 - Only one entry per group is permitted
 - Names of members of the group or other identifying markings disclosing the members of the group must not be written or printed on the essay or entry form or at all.



- A group can adopt a project group name for example " Energy Conservationists" or "Project Team A from St. John's High School". These examples are only provided as a means of clarification

9.5 Competition Champions

Groups shall be afforded the opportunity of working closely with Members of Parliament for the duration of the competition.

Subsequent to receipt of notice of participation and selection of topic, competition champions shall be assigned to provide guidance. Some of the champions ..

- Hon. Randall Mitchell, MP – Minister of Public Administration
- Hon. Camille Robinson-Regis, MP – Minister of Planning and Development
- Sen. David Small – Independent Senator
- Hon. Nicole Oliverre, MP – Minister of Energy and Energy Industries
- Dr. Bhoendradatt Tewarie, MP – Opposition Member
- Sen. Wade Mark – Leader of Opposition Business in the Senate
- Mrs. Glenda Jennings-Smith, MP – Parliamentary Secretary in the Ministry of National Security

10.0 Judging

A completed entry form must be attached to all essays. Staff at the Office of the Parliament will code the entry forms along with the essays received. After coding, entry forms will be removed to facilitate unbiased grading.

Grades will be awarded as follows:

Grade	Percentage	Comments
A+	96 – 100	Exceptional
A	76 – 95	Very Good
B	61 – 75	Good
C	51 – 60	Pass

The Judges will meet to evaluate the submissions. This exercise will be conducted at the



Office of the Parliament. The top three (3) essays will be selected. The three (3) entrants along with their schools shall be awarded prizes. Four (4) special prizes will be awarded in the following categories:

10.1 Grading Scheme

Marks will be awarded in accordance with the following grading scheme.

1) 25% - Knowledge

- Knowledge of energy and energy conservation
- Appropriate use of knowledge
- Accuracy

2) 25% - Application

- Research depth
- Understanding and expression
- Personal interpretation with supporting arguments
- Structure of ideas and expressions

3) 40% - Suggestions and Solutions

- Analysis
- Interpretation
- Clear presentation of conclusions
- Originality

4) 10% - Presentation

11.0 Prizes

For the Essay Competition attractive prizes will be awarded to students, teachers and schools accordingly:



Student Prizes
1 st Prize
2 nd Prize
3 rd Prize
Best understanding of Energy Conservation
Most original essay

School Prizes
1 st Prize
2 nd Prize
3 rd Prize

11.1 Special Prizes

- Best understanding and illustration of energy conservation
- Most original essay



12.0 Contact Information

To learn more about the essay competition please contact the following Officers at the Office of the Parliament

- **Mrs. Lynette Joseph-Guevara**
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Some Useful Research Links

United Nations Sustainable Development Goals

<https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/?menu=1300>

COP 21 - Climate Commitments of Subnational Actors and Business

<http://www.cop21paris.org/knowledge-centre/reports/>

The latest news on the Paris agreement and COP22 from across the world

<http://www.scoop.it/t/cop21news>

United Nations Climate Change newsroom

<http://newsroom.unfccc.int/>

International Institute For Energy Conservation

<http://www.iiec.org/>

World Energy Council

<https://www.worldenergy.org/>

United Nations Environmental Programme

<http://www.unep.org/>

United Kingdom Parliament's Energy and Climate Change Committee

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/committees/committees-a-z/commons-select/energy-and-climate-change-committee/>

Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre

<http://www.caribbeanclimate.bz/>

The Caribbean Renewable Energy Development Programme (CREDP)

<http://www.caricom.org/jsp/projects/credp.jsp?menu=projects>

Caribbean Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (CCREEE)

<http://www.ccreee.org/>

World Meteorological Organization Youth Information page

<https://www.wmo.int/youth/>



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United Nations Youth Gateway / Global Youth Partnership for the Sustainable Development Goals

<http://www.un.org/youthenvoy/2015/09/youth-gateway-global-youth-partnership-for-the-sustainable-development-goals-announced-at-unga-high-level-side-event/>

United Nations Climate Change Data Room

http://unfccc.int/ghg_data/items/3800.php

World Bank Climate Change Data Center

<http://data.worldbank.org/topic/climate-change>

Climate Parliament-Legislators Working Worldwide To Combat Climate Change

<http://www.climateparl.net/home.do?lang=en>

University of Hawaii Study on Climate Change Departure Dates

<https://manoa.hawaii.edu/news/article.php?ald=6034>