



The English Speaking Union Chile

THE NATIONAL ENGLISH WRITING COMPETITION 2017

CATEGORY 1 – Students must be between 15 and 22 years old at December 31st 2017, residing in Chile with Spanish as a first language.

STRUCTURE AND RULES OF THE COMPETITION

First Stage:

The contestants must write an argumentative essay of between 750 and 1000 words on one of the following themes:

- 1. There are more than 2.000.000 bicycles in Santiago today. Some people think the State should redesign the transport system to fully integrate them. Explain what you would do.
- 2. From smartphones to self-driving cars, artificial Intelligence is making significant progress. But are they of real benefits for the ordinary citizen? What is your opinion?
- 3. It is said that Chile has an outdated and permissive immigration law, and that immigration is growing at a rapid pace. The number of visas issued to Venezuelans, for example, rose from 758 in 2010 to 8,381 in 2015. Some 34,400 Haitians entered Chile on tourist visas in the first nine months of 2016. Should immigration law in Chile be rewritten. What do you think? Explain why.
- 4. According to the latest opinion polls, crime continues to be the main concern for Chileans. When it comes to crime prevention, should more detention centres/jails be built? How would you solve the problem of crime in Chile?
- 5. Increasing energy consumption in Chile creates an urgent need for action. But an increase in the construction of hydroelectric dams can cause serious environmental damage and lead to loss of unique habitat. Some argue that other “clean” sources of energy are really clean or cost effective. What practical solutions would you suggest to protect habitat preservation and promote energy efficiency in Chile?

Participants must:

- Complete and submit the form found at the following link:
https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSer19Qofkx_T6GLLiGrmlsKatjX3jUffUDg4h5usDEYS16QIQ/viewform
- Send in an argument essay of between 750 and 1000 words written in English on one of the topics below to esuchilecompetition2017@gmail.com

Both these tasks must be completed together before August 6th, 2017

Title of Essay

The themes are not titles. Each competitor should create his/her own title related to one of the themes which should appear on every page of the text. The essay must be original. Nothing should be copied from the Internet unless attributed to its author.

Format of the Essay

The essay should be sent by email as **an attachment** as a **WORD** document to esuchilecompetition2017@gmail.com. It should be double spaced, Arial font, size 12. Personal information must appear in the body of the email **but not on any page of the essay**. The deadline to send in the essay and fill in the form is: Friday 6th of August, at the latest.

SCHOOLS must select the five best essays written by its pupils. If a school is not participating, then individual students may participate privately prior permission from the organizers.

Those participants who have won a prize of a trip abroad in previous ESU Chile competitions of any type will not be considered for the first prize in the Writing Competition.

Second Stage

Ten finalists will be invited to take part in an individual creative writing session on 28th September, 2017 at the Recoleta Dominica Museum. The nature of the writing tasks will be announced at the start of that session.

Judges

The judges will only have access to the essays and will not know the names or origins of the writers. Their decisions will be final. These judges have been appointed by the English-Speaking Union Chile and the Chilean British Institute,

Judging Criteria

- a) The judges will assess the essays according to the following criteria:
 - i) Use of language
 - ii) Analysis of the chosen argument
 - iii) Presentation and structure

This is an Argument Essay and the best essays will be those which manage to convince the judges with their arguments. There is a document on how to write an argument essay available on request.

Prizes

1st prize: Air ticket to England, a two-week stay and two-week English Course with The Scarborough International School of English.

This and other prizes will be awarded at a special ceremony at the Recoleta Dominica Museum at a Prize-giving (ceremony) in November 2017 (Date to be

confirmed) with the attendance of the British Ambassador, during which the winning stories will be read aloud.

Sponsors

The competition is organised by the ESU in partnership with the Instituto Chileno Británico de Cultura with the special sponsorship of The Scarborough International School of English and the Recoleta Domínica Museum.

Category 2 (Students in 7th and 8th grade)

Elegibility

Participants must be attending 7th or 8th “Básico” at school in Chile and Spanish must be their first language.

Rules:

Participants must:

- Complete and submit the form found at the following link:
<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSe7y-oassy1ynKyuxNnSVI21THrZczZ2rc55j1vWnFV2GijWA/viewform>
- **Send in an email of between 250 and 400 words (hereafter referred to as the *Competing Piece*)** written in English on one of the topics below to esuchilecompetition2017@gmail.com

SCHOOLS must select **the five best Competing Pieces** written by its pupils. If a school is not participating then individual students may participate privately, prior permission from the organizers.

Format of the Competing Piece

- Students should NOT use their real names when signing the Competing Piece, or use the real name of any headmaster/mistress or that of any real official, or mention the name of their school or city or any other identifying factor in the Competing Piece.
- The Competing Piece should have a subject line, as well as a salutation at the beginning and at the end. Make sure that school or government officials are addressed correctly.
- **The subject line should appear on the first page of the text.** The Competing Piece should be sent to esuchilecompetition2017@gmail.com by email as **an attachment**.
- The name of the competitor should be included in the body of your email **but not on the Competing Piece**.
- The Competing Piece should be a WORD document, double spaced, Arial font, size 12. No personal information should be included on any page.

The deadline for sending in the Competing Piece is the 6th of August, 2017.

Themes of the Competing Piece

- 1. Write an email to a headmaster/headmistress asking for a change in school starting time. Explain why this would be an improvement. (Do not use the real name of your headmaster/mistress)
- 2. Write an email to a film star or world celebrity requesting that they endorse an organ donor campaign in your country. Give your reasons.
- 3. Write an email to a government official proposing a law that would benefit travelling for young people inside your country. Explain how it would help.
- 4. Write an email to a teacher explaining why you think that more science lessons would be beneficial (or not beneficial) to your class.

Second Stage

Ten finalists will be selected and invited to take part in an individual creative writing session on the 26th of September, 2017 at the Recoleta Dominica Museum. The nature of the writing tasks will be announced at the start of that session.

Judges

The judges will only have access to the Competing Pieces, and will not know the names or origins of the writers. Their decisions will be final. These judges have been appointed by the English-Speaking Union Chile and the Chilean British Institute,

Judging Criteria

The judges will assess the Competing Pieces according to the following criteria:

- iv) Use of language
- v) Quality of the argument
- vi) Presentation and structure

The best emails will be those that manage to convince the judges of your point of view

Prizes

1st Prize in Category 2:

- A Drone: (Parrot Bebop Quadcopter) or similar.
- **This and** other prizes will be awarded at a special ceremony at the Recoleta Dominica Museum at a Prize-giving (ceremony) in November 2017 (Date to be confirmed) with the attendance of the British Ambassador, during which the winning stories will be read aloud.

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