

# Rotary

District 9800



2020

## Year 6 Writing Competition



**Guideline and Templates  
for Clubs on how to  
establish a Year 6 Writing  
Competition**



## Vocational Service: Year 6 Writing Competition

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### Introduction

#### Vocational Service:

Through Vocational Service we:

1. *Serve Others by using our unique skills to address community needs*
2. *Empower others through training and skill development*
3. *Inspire Others to act with integrity by following Rotary's guiding principles.*

Establishing and/or participating in a Year 6 Writing Competition enables Clubs to meet the second aspect of Vocational Service - **Empowering others through training and skill development.**

The following suggested guidelines on how to establish a **Year 6 Writing Competition** is based on the successful program run by Rotary North Balwyn.

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## 1. Summary

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- Background**
- The Year 6 Writing Competition run for the first time in 2020 during the COVID 19 lockdown is an initiative of the Rotary Club of North Balwyn.
  - Staff at the school were very pleased to be asked to participate as it was one of the few things that students were able to complete during lockdown.
  - It was such a good experience for the students and the school that the five participating schools unanimously supported Rotary to run the competition again in 2021.
  - Sixty students participated in the first year.

- Objectives**
- To encourage imaginative thinking and help to improve writing skills for year six students,

- General Approach**
- Invite local schools to participate in the Year 6 Writing Competition to be run by Rotary with all year six students eligible to take part.
  - Once on board, the school nominates a contact staff person to liaise with Rotary. All correspondence, after that, should go to the nominated contact.
  - The Rotary Club looks after the running of the competition and the judging of the essays.
  - The school contact person advertises the competition to students, liaises with students and collects the finished essays.
  - Age-appropriate topic/s can be determined by the Rotary Club judging panel and/or in consultation with the school liaison person.
  - Judging panels should include people with the appropriate skills such as but not limited to teachers or former teachers, writers, actors, English teachers or former English teachers.
  - Recommended judging panel size is 3 people.
  - Should a Rotary Club not have members with the relevant background, people from the local community can be approached to assist with the judging and setting of age-appropriate topics.

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- Prizes offered**
- While it is up to Clubs to determine the number and type of prizes they wish to offer for the competition, the following are the prizes offered by Rotary Club of North Balwyn in 2020.

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- **Total prizemoney** \$2,300 paid from the Club's vocational service budget - used to purchase Officeworks vouchers.
  - **Awards** There were eight awards in total 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> 3<sup>rd</sup> plus 5 encouragement awards for students.
  - **First Prize** is \$1,000 given as two Officeworks vouchers, \$500 for student, \$500 for the winning school.
  - **Second Prize** is \$500 (\$250 student, \$250 school).
  - **Third Prize** is \$300 (\$150 student, \$150 school).
  - **Encouragement awards** to students only (5 x \$100).
  - **Sponsorship** While Rotary provided the money for the vouchers, Officeworks created the framed certificates and gave additional merchandise to those in 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> 3<sup>rd</sup> place.
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### Presentation of Prizes

- Prizes can be presented at a special Rotary Club Meeting, at the school or at another suitable venue.
- It is up to Clubs whether to invite all the winners, the 1<sup>st</sup> prize winner only or the 1<sup>st</sup> 2<sup>nd</sup> 3<sup>rd</sup> prize winners.
- Parents of the winning students (invited to attend the presentation) and the local school contact person/s to also be invited to attend the presentation.

### Key Success factors

- Commitment of school Principals and nominated school contact person to the program and support of the Year 6 teachers.
  - Relevant prizes to encourage student participation.
  - Good open communication between Rotary and the participating schools at all times.
  - Respecting confidentiality of student and school contact details and other sensitive information provided by the schools.
  - Appropriately skilled judging panel.
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## **Example Rotary Club**

### **Competition overview, timing & judging**

#### **Year 6 Essay Writing Competition 2021 for Year 6 students**

**Primary Schools participating: List here**

*(Essay title: will be confirmed in the first week of term one 2021)*

#### **School Commitment**

School Principals will be contacted in term four 2019 seeking their support. Once given, a contact person on staff will become the conduit between the Rotary Club and the School. Competition details will be made available to year 6 students early in term one.

#### **Essays**

Essays should be between 300 and 500 words. Those longer than 500 words will not be considered. Winning essays (First, Second, Third and any Encouragement Awards) will become the property of the Rotary Club and may be published in print or electronically.

Those students entering the competition will give a hard copy of their essay to the contact teacher before the deadline. A Rotary vocational committee member will then collect those essays at the school. Each student should also keep an electronic copy of their essay.

When submitting their essays, students must include their name, mailing address (postal or electronic), their school and the name of the contact staff member supporting their entry. Students must also understand that each essay should be their own creation, without help from others.

#### **Judging Criteria and panel**

Contestants' essays will be judged on the clarity of the writing (including spelling and grammar), the quality in the ideas expressed and the innovative thinking and imagination the writer has presented.

Essays to be judged by a literary panel: three Club members with backgrounds in teaching and journalism.

#### **Presentation of Prizes**

The student adjudged to have written the best essay will be invited to a special presentation at the Rotary Club of North Balwyn, along with his/her parent/s and the contact teacher.

#### **Prizes**

- 1<sup>st</sup> ... \$1,000 = \$500 Officeworks voucher for student, \$500 for school
- 2<sup>nd</sup> ... \$500 ... \$250 Officeworks voucher for student, \$250 for school
- 3<sup>rd</sup> ... \$300 ... \$150 Officeworks voucher for student, \$150 for school
- Encouragement awards x 5 maximum ... \$100 Officeworks voucher each



## Example Invitation letter to School Principal

Principal name  
Primary School  
Address

Date:

Dear.....

**Re: Rotary Club ....Year 6 Essay Writing Competition**

The Rotary Club .....is proposing to run an essay competition in term one 2021 for all the year six students in this part of the municipality. The schools invited to participate are listed on the accompanying sheet. The Essay Competition is a part of our Club's vocational service program to encourage students to develop their creativity and writing skills. The topic will be carefully selected to promote a positive outlook for the students involved.

We are requesting your support in encouraging your year six students and a staff member to actively participate in the writing competition during Term One 2021. We ask that the contact staff member be the person with whom our Club will liaise in regard to the activity.

Information on the proposed Essay Competition is explained on the sheet attached, including essay length, judging criteria and the mechanics of getting the essays submitted to the judging panel. The topic will be announced at the start of term 1, 2021.

Should your school decide to participate will you please make contact with our essay co-ordinator Joan Bloggs (*details below*) and inform us who your contact staff member is so that Joan can liaise with them. Information on the winning entries will be passed on to each school participating.

Please note the generous prizes we are allocating for students and schools for the best judged essays. These are to say thank you for your school's participation and to really encourage year six students to get involved.

For further information please contact: Joan Bloggs *email [joanbloggs@gmail.com](mailto:joanbloggs@gmail.com) mobile: 0400 999 888*

*Yours sincerely*

*Director Vocational Service  
Rotary Club*

## Essay submitted in 2020 by Year 6 Student

### ***'If I could change one thing in the world...'***

*Grunting with annoyance, I threw my textbook to the floor. I was annoyed, as even after I had worked for hours, I could not seem to find the perfect answer to the question. Deciding to take a break, I walked outside to play soccer instead.*

*Looking for the ball, I saw a note on the ground. "Taken the ball. HA! Brayden."*

*Brayden was the school bully. He had pulled this stunt many times before. And annoyingly, he never returned my ball.*

*"Can you go to the shops to buy some eggs?" my mum called out to my older sister. Her reply came quickly, so sharp that I could see lines of weariness crease my mother's face.*

*"No!" was the reply. So I went instead.*

*On the way out of the shop, I saw a homeless person begging for money. Everyone walked past him, as if he was not there. I gave him some change, and he looked up at me with thankful eyes. In contrast, everyone else looked down at me as if I had grown a third eye.*

*Wanting a break from all the negative behaviour, I went up to my gaming studio.*

*Whenever I was feeling overwhelmed, I always went up there. And today, I was definitely feeling overwhelmed. Reaching out to retrieve my virtual reality goggles, I attached it to my head and turned it on.*

*In a second, I became immersed into the Possible Worlds game.*

*Possible Worlds was my favourite because it provided players with incredibly interesting possibilities. It showcased its creators' imagination and I liked to ponder about how it worked. I skipped past all of the worlds that I had been in before. But a new world stood out. It read 'Compassionate World.'*

*Walking outside, I noticed my soccer ball was out of air. Glancing across the fence, I noticed my neighbour brandishing a soccer ball. "Want to play with me?" Brayden asked. Nodding, I went to his backyard.*

*"Do you need more eggs?" my sister asked my mum. I could see a smile forming on my mother's face.*

*I saw a homeless person receive money from kind shoppers.*

*I felt a warm glow, and I realised how much I wanted this to be a reality. Reluctantly, I untied the strap of my virtual reality goggles. Looking at the floor, I noticed my textbook again. It was lying on the floor, unwanted and discarded.*

*Reaching down, I picked up the textbook, and read the question once more.*

*'If I could change one thing in the world, it would be...'*

*Smiling, I thought about the virtual world I had recently entered. I wondered if this was possible to translate into real life. I picked up a pencil, and began to write.*