

Oliveseed announces its 4th Short Story Writing Competition for schools all over Morocco.

Theme: "Empowering Communities: The Spirit of Civic Responsibility"

Description:

The theme of "**Empowering Communities: The Spirit of Civic Responsibility**" for this Year's **Short Story Writing Contest** invites students to creatively explore how civic responsibility—rooted in patriotism, citizenship, and green practices—can positively impact lives and environments. Participants will craft stories that celebrate the values of community care, environmental stewardship, and ethical engagement in both real and virtual spaces.

This year's contest celebrates the spirit of civic engagement and encourages young writers to reflect on how individuals and groups can inspire change by addressing social and ecological challenges, fostering empathy, and promoting sustainable practices for a better future.

Key Dates:

- Competition launches: **December 9th, 2024**
- Deadline for entries: **February 28th, 2025**
- Competition winners announced: **April 26th, 2025**

Who is the competition for?

The competition is for all students at Moroccan public and private schools.

Objectives of the Competition:

1. **Empower Young Writers:**
Provide a platform for students to express their creativity, develop their storytelling skills, and share their unique perspectives.
2. **Promote the Art of Storytelling in Morocco:**
Celebrate and elevate storytelling as a cultural and educational tool, encouraging its use to address societal and environmental themes.
3. **Encourage Civic and Environmental Responsibility:**
Inspire participants to explore acts of patriotism, ethical citizenship, and green practices that contribute to a better world.

4. **Foster Creativity and Critical Thinking:**
Encourage innovative approaches to addressing real-world challenges through imaginative and thought-provoking narratives.
5. **Celebrate Ethical Citizenship:**
Highlight the importance of civic behavior in real and virtual spaces, focusing on collaboration, empathy, and responsible engagement.
6. **Recognize Emerging Talent:**
Showcase outstanding stories by publishing them in an anthology, providing young writers with a broader audience and a sense of accomplishment.

How to send your students' stories?

Please choose the best two stories of your students, edit them (just language mistakes) and send them to **Moulay Larbi Arbaoui** (Director of Writing Programs - OliveSeed)
larbi@oliveseed.org

Rules of the competition:

Stories entered for the competition must comply with the following rules:

1. **Language and Originality:**
 - Stories must be written in English.
 - Submissions should be original provided they are previously unpublished.
2. **Plot and Theme:**
 - The story must focus on a single, cohesive plotline.
 - Submissions should align with this year's theme, "**Empowering Communities: The Spirit of Civic Responsibility.**"
3. **Submission Process:**
 - Stories must be submitted by students' OliveSeed coordinators directly to the email provided.
 - Each school can submit up to **5 stories**.
4. **Length and Format:**
 - Stories should be a minimum of **500 words** and a maximum of **1,000 words**.
 - Submissions must be typed in a Word document using **12-point Arial or Times New Roman font, double-spaced**.
5. **Writer Information:**
 - Each submission must include the writer's name, age, class, school name, and city or town.
 - A brief bio of the writer (maximum 50 words) should also be included.
6. **Participation:**
 - Participation in the competition is entirely free of charge.

Story Writing Guidelines

To help participants craft strong submissions, the following guidelines are recommended:

- **Relevance to the Theme:** Ensure your story reflects the theme of civic responsibility, emphasizing acts and behaviors that positively impact human lives and the environment.
- **Character Development:** Focus on creating relatable characters whose actions drive the plot forward.
- **Clarity and Flow:** Organize ideas logically, maintaining a clear beginning, middle, and end.
- **Creativity:** Use imaginative and engaging language to bring your story to life while staying true to the theme.
- **Grammar and Spelling:** Proofread your story carefully to ensure it is free of errors.

Usage Rights

By submitting their stories, students grant **OliveSeed** the absolute right to use, publish, distribute, and reuse their submissions in any format, including but not limited to digital platforms, print publications, and promotional materials. OliveSeed also reserves the right to sell collections of the submitted stories in digital or physical formats. Writers will retain their copyright but agree that their submissions can be used at OliveSeed's discretion without additional compensation.

The prize package includes:

1st prize: A free of charge trip to London
2nd prize: Free access to the prestigious oxford online course with accredited certificate
3rd prize: Paperwhite kindle

- All winners and accepted stories will be featured in our story anthology
- Certificates of achievement

P.S: Stories which fail to meet the rules and guidelines of the competition will be ignored.

Good luck everyone!