



КЭСКИЛ¹⁴

SCIENTIA VINCES ESSAY COMPETITION

FOR SCHOOL STUDENTS

Official Guidelines: VII International Essay Competition "SCIENTIA VINCES 2026"

Organised by: The Sakha Science Academy of the Republic of Sakha (Yakutia)

Supported by: "Trust Fund of Future Generations in the Republic of Sakha (Yakutia)"

The Sakha Science Academy is proud to announce the **VII Essay Competition**. This year's competition centres on the profound preservation of identity, historical memory, and spiritual heritage as the bedrock of a people's longevity and sovereignty.

ESSAY THEME: *"The nation and the state live as long as their culture lives" — Mikhail Nikolaev.*

Theme Description & Core Concepts

This competition invites you to reflect on this profound subject from a deeply personal and philosophical perspective. The Essay must explore the concept of **Homo culturalis**, which implies that human existence is deeply dependent on culture. Culture is a body of thoughts and ideas that evolved into a system that protects humans and helps them build communities to overcome difficulties.

Cultural heritage helps all humans make choices and decisions. All our collective values, moral frameworks, and fundamental perceptions are entirely based on our cultural heritage. Therefore, culture serves as both the protection and the foundation of human civilisation. Without it, humanity could not have survived, nor could we cooperate or find the common values that bind us together.

Crucially, this cultural framework is the source of **hope for the future of humankind**. By drawing strength from our ancestral roots and collective wisdom, we find the tools to build bridges, foster global cooperation, and sustain a resilient optimism for the generations to come.

What do Mikhail Nikolaev's statement, the concept of *Homo culturalis*, and this enduring hope for humanity mean to you and your generation? How does your family's personal legacy and ancestral history intertwine with the broader cultural survival of the state? Most importantly, what responsibility does your generation carry to preserve, protect, and enrich this cultural foundation to ensure a peaceful, cooperative, and prosperous future for those to come?

Guidelines & Regulations

1. **Eligibility:** The Essay must be written in good English and may be submitted by anyone **up to 18 years old (as of November 13, 2026)** who is a current high school student.
2. **Word Count:** The Essay must not exceed 500 words. Recommended word limits: **400–500 words**.
3. **Core Essay Content Requirement:** The contestant **must include exactly three (3) personal examples** from their own life, family history, or local community that directly illustrate the importance of culture as a foundation for survival, decision-making, cooperation, or hope for humankind.
4. **CRITICAL VIDEO REQUIREMENT (MOST IMPORTANT PART OF THE CONTEST):** The entrant **must submit a downloadable video link of a recorded video with the participant reading his or her own essay aloud**. This video submission is considered the **primary and most essential component** of the evaluation process. It serves as definitive proof of the participant's direct ownership, emotional engagement, oral proficiency, and deep dedication to the theme. Failure to provide a functional link to a high-quality video will result in immediate disqualification. The video file should be uploaded to any downloadable cloud storage.
5. **MANDATORY ONLINE INTERVIEW & DECISIVE EVALUATION FACTOR:** To strictly verify the authenticity and authentic human authorship of the work, the final pool of contestants eligible for prizes and certificates **will be required to participate in an online interview**. These interviews will be conducted **within ten (10) days following the final submission deadline**. The interview—featuring direct questions about the essay's subject matter and concepts—will serve as the **decisive factor** in determining the final rankings and winners of the contest.
6. **FINALITY OF JUDGING PANEL DECISIONS:** The decision of the judging panel is absolute, **final, and binding on all participants without any option for appeal or external moderation**. The Organisers **will not enter into correspondence, explain, or discuss the decisions, evaluations, or grading criteria** of the judges with contestants, mentors, or any third parties.
7. **Submission Method:** The Essay must be submitted via the **SCIENTIA VINCES ESSAY COMPETITION 2026** portal: <https://forms.gle/SKc7dDjKiReS68P48>.
8. **Completeness:** All entries with missing information required in the competition form will not be considered.
9. **Entry Limit:** Each person can submit only one entry. The receipt of the essay will not be acknowledged.
10. **Originality:** The Essay must be original and unpublished.
11. **AI Prohibition:** The Essay must be the sole work of the entrant. **The use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools to generate content** (including but not limited to text generation, paraphrasing, or idea conception) **is strictly prohibited** and will result in immediate disqualification.
12. **Plagiarism:** Plagiarised entries will be rejected.
13. **Authorship:** The Essay must be written by a single author. Co-authored essays are not accepted.
14. **Copyright:** The copyright of the submitted essays will be transferred to the organiser of this competition.
15. **Deadline:** All entries must be received by **October 23, 2026 (23:59 Yakutsk Time)**.

16. **Video Publication:** The entrant's videos accepted for the competition will be uploaded to the Sakha Science Academy of the Republic of Sakha (Yakutia) VK channel (https://vk.com/man_rsya).
17. **Results:** All winners will be announced on **November 13, 2026**, on the Sakha Science Academy website: lensky-kray.ru. The organisers are not obliged to answer any inquiries concerning the result of the competition.
18. **Awards & Prizes:**
- **1st Prize:** Certificate, prize of **50,000 Roubles** and a gift (1 entrant)
 - **2nd Prize:** Certificate, prize of **25,000 Roubles** and a gift (2 entrants)
 - **3rd Prize:** Certificate and a gift (5 entrants)
 - **Honourable Mention Certificate:** 25 awards
 - *Note: Cash prizes are subject to a personal 13% tax deduction. Additional awards (Recognition for Effort, Original Reasoning, Top YouTube view count and rating) may also be conferred if applicable.*
19. **Amendments:** The Organiser reserves the right to amend the Rules & Regulations without giving prior notification or any reasons thereof.

PLEASE SEND YOUR ENTRIES VIA THE OFFICIAL PAGE (LINK TO BE ACTIVATED ON OUR WEBSITE)

FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT:
lensky-kray.ru