



IEOX ESSAYCHALLENGE 2025/26

ANNUAL REGULATION

September 8, 2025

1 Introduction

The International Economics Olympiad, in its dedication to enhancing skills in economics, finance, and business, employs a strategic blend of contemporary, historical, and practical resources.

As part of this commitment, the IEOx EssayChallenge (EsC) is introduced to provide young minds across the globe with an exceptional chance to transform their academic endeavors into compelling and impactful research results.

Beyond being a mere avenue for submissions, the EsC seeks to create an inclusive platform that encourages the exchange of ideas among high school participants who exhibit analytical and critical thinking skills, representing diverse cultural backgrounds.

2 Qualification

All participants (authors) should be junior (middle) or senior high (secondary) school students **and** aged below 20 by June 30, 2026.

3 Theme

The annual theme for the IEOx EsC is intentionally broad, inviting participants to delve into a diverse array of subjects interwoven with economics, business, and finance. Whether unraveling the complexities of economic systems, analyzing intriguing business scenarios, or advocating for heightened financial awareness, this platform offers participants from across the globe the opportunity to illuminate various facets of the economic world.

In the EsC, your creativity knows no bounds, and your unique perspective on the crossroads of knowledge will be shared with the world!

As a suggestion, authors are encouraged to explore economics ideas aligned with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to inspire and guide their essays. These global goals provide a valuable framework for addressing pressing issues and fostering positive change on a global scale.

4 Rules

- 4.1 An individual, whether participating in this challenge independently or as part of a group, may submit only one article per year. Submissions can be either individual-based or group-based, with group submissions limited to a maximum of 3 persons.

- 4.2 The EssayChallenge only accepts submissions in English. A submission must include **an abstract** and **body text**.
- 4.3 Word count limits: 250–400 words in the abstract; 1,500–2,000 in the body text
- 4.4 All submissions should be titled.
- 4.5 A submitted file should be in .docx or .odt format and named with **the title of the submission**.
- 4.6 Submissions **disclosing author information** (*e.g., names, schools, etc.*) will be disqualified.
- 4.7 **No duplicate submission is allowed.** Exceptions apply to significantly edited formerly submitted works and should be clearly declared in the registration form.
- 4.8 **Plagiarism, impersonation, or the use of artificial intelligence is strictly prohibited.** The Challenge reserves the right to disqualify a submission, cancel an award, or other further action provided a submission is proven to have involved any of the aforementioned circumstances. Authors should take full legal liability of infringement of copyright or intellectual property.

5 Judging criteria

The criteria consist of (1) consistency to the theme, (2) perspective creativity, (3) complete narration, (4) contextual analysis, (5) formatting, and (6) readability.

The EssayChallenge reserves the right to determine whether to accept a submission in light of the judging criteria.

6 Formatting (6.2–6.6 mandatory)

Item	Rules and examples
6.1 Fonts	Times New Roman, Arial, or Helvetica
6.2 Title	14 pt, bold, center alignment
6.3 Subtitles	12 pt, bold, justified alignment
6.4 Table or figure captions	12 pt, bold, center alignment
6.5 Abstract and body text	12 pt, regular (not bold), justified alignment
6.6 Citation	APA format

7 Registration and submission

Registration and submission is only available on the [official website](#).

8 Critical dates (Note: all times are UTC)

- **September 15, 2025:** Start of registration and submission
- **December 15, 2025:** **End of registration and submission**
- **January 12, 2026:** Announcement of preliminary judging results (top 20–40)
- **January 30, 2026:** Announcement of final judging results (top 5–10)

9 Must-knows for participation

- Understand the Annual Regulation and start researching.
- Visit the registration system to fill in author details. After your registration is confirmed, a confirmation email will be sent with a link to upload your article. Submissions are accepted until **Monday, December 15, 2025, 23:59 (UTC)**.
- If your submission is announced as a selected excellent article, you will be invited to the IEOx WinterChallenge 2026 (date to be announced later in Q4 2025) to present your research in front of a global audience online.
- Selected submissions will be published on the official website.

10 Host

The EssayChallenge is hosted by the International Economics Olympiad Community (IEOx).

Contact the team via the official email at: essaychallenge@ecolymp.org.

End of Annual Regulation