European Mathematical Society
www.euro-math-soc.eu

www.euromath.org

EMS
Mathematics Journalistic Article Competition
MJAC-2020
For School Students of age 10-19

Framework - Aims

1. The European Mathematical Society (EMS) announces a competition for writing a journalistic expository article of philosophical reflection, investigation and expression of ideas on the subject:

"Mathematics is Everywhere"

2. The article will be of an exploratory and argumentative type and it is expected by the participants in the competition to refer and support/document their ideas and claims concerning the topic. They may refer to the uses of mathematics in everyday life, to its framework as a way of thinking and communication, to its applications in other areas of the realms of meaning and to present documented positions on the role of mathematics in the development of humanity.

Competition Aims

3. The participants in the competition are encouraged to provide elements and/or arguments (or counterarguments), with the proper support or documentation, explaining **what mathematics is about and where we can find it**. In this context they could refer to examples of use in everyday life, thus demonstrating the wide range of uses in the real world.

4. The participants in the competition are encouraged to provide elements and/or arguments (or counterarguments), with the proper support or documentation, explaining **the value and importance of mathematics for everyone**. In this context it is expected from them to express their concerns about the practices of various disseminators that created a myth (or a reality) that mathematics is for an elite and send the appropriate message to minimize this impression.

5. The participants in the competition are encouraged to provide elements and/or arguments (or counterarguments), with the proper support or documentation, explaining **how mathematics is represented and what is its role in the area of symbolics** (realm of expressing messages or meanings).

6. Give to the participants the opportunity to refer to the role and correlation of mathematics with the processes of **problem solving, the critical consideration of different situations of everyday life**, and the development of rational arguments for dealing with them.

7. The participants in the competition are encouraged to provide evidence, with the proper support or documentation, explaining that mathematics is **present in nature** and it is widespread and used for a broad range of **human activities.**

8. Give to the participants the opportunity to develop communication skills through written and if they pass to the finals, through oral discourse.

9. Provide to the participants the opportunity to refer to the interaction of mathematics with other day-to-day activities and to justify the need for engaging in learning basic mathematics.

Terms and Regulations

10. Contestants must have been normally enrolled as students in fulltime primary or secondary school education on or after 1 December in the year 2019 or, in the case of home-schooled students, must not have received a secondary school diploma (or equivalent), and must be working toward such a credential. Minimum age by 1 December 2019 should be 10 years old and maximum age by 31 March 2020 should be 19 years old. Contestants may be citizens of any ERASMUS+ Programme or Partner country. With this in view and in the case that their article is distinguished they may be asked for relevant documentation.

11. **The deadline for submitting articles is 15 January 2020**, until 12 noon and they should be submitted online in the English language to the link (**PRESS HERE**).

12. The articles should reflect the personal opinions and positions on the issue and they can be in agreement or disagreement with the view that is signified by the title. In case of reference to opinions or positions of other individuals or experts or studies, there should be an explicit and clear reference to the writer and the work. Using text created by third people, even with reference, should be at minimum. Each article should be the work of one and only one author. Each student participant in the competition may submit up to two different articles. Sub-title of the general them "Mathematics is Everywhere" may be used at the discretion of the author, especially to differentiate between two submissions by the same author.

13. Articles that seem to present opinions or positions of other individuals or experts, without the proper reference will be rejected. The references should be written at the end of the article and the extent of words will be part of the counting of the maximum number of words of the article. All article texts will be checked for plagiarism.

14. All article submissions will receive a confirmation reply in the email provided. Those who do not receive a confirmation within 3 days must contact the EMS Education Committee representative at the email **projects@cms.org.cy** for confirmation.

15. The receiving authorities will check the eligibility of the contestant and will assign a code number to the article separating the text from the identifying data. These data will be kept away from the content of the article in order to secure anonymity before the article is sent for assessment.

16. Written articles should be between 800 and 1200 words and should be legible and clear. Photos or figures are not allowed. Articles should be submitted in the English language.

17. By submitting the article for the competition, the publication rights of the article are transferred to the European Mathematical Society/EMS Education Committee, which has the right to publish any of the articles (with a proper reference to its author).

18. The articles will be assessed by teams of assessors that are to be appointed by the EMS Education Committee and, according to their assessment, a short list (finalists) of the most outstanding ones will be formed. The assessment will be based on the following criteria:
    (a) Content: in relation to the objectives set for the subject under discussion.
    (b) Language: correct grammar and syntax in the use of the language that must be English.
    (c) Structure and organization.
    (d) Argumentation and persuasiveness.
    (e) Innovation in content and presentation.
    For those invited to the finals, the above will form the 50% of the total score and the oral assessment during the finals will form the remaining 50%. All finalists will receive a special achievement certificate regardless of whether they participate in the finals or not.

19. The authors of the articles included in the short list of the outstanding ones (finalists) will be invited to present their articles and their positions in public during the EUROMATH 2020 conference, during 13-14 March 2020 in Thessaloniki, Greece. These contestants will have to defend their positions in limited time and answer questions in front of a jury and in public. Finalists will need to arrange and cover their own travel and lodging expenses including visa if needed and register at the EUROMATH & EUROSCIENCE pupils' conference to be eligible to participate in the final round. On the basis of this oral presentation and final assessment, the following prizes will be awarded:
    1st prize: Diploma + Laptop.
    2nd prize: Diploma + Books
    3rd prize: Diploma + Books
    Additional prizes from sponsors may be announced at a later stage.

For any questions you may write to
projects@cms.org.cy and write in the email subject MJAC 2020.