



CREATIVE MINDS YOUTH CONTEST 2015-16

Info Kit

www.artessay.ca

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1. Intercultural Dialogue Institute MONTREAL

Founded in 2003, the Intercultural Dialogue Institute (IDI) of Montreal is a non-profit organization to promote dialogue, cultural exchange as well as positive action within the Montreal community whose purpose is to raise awareness of an open-minded society by organizing various kinds of events. The institute aims to eliminate false stereotypes and prejudices through direct human interactions. It stresses the need to create a culture of understanding and peace based universally shared values. In achieving its mission, IDI Montreal organizes a number of events such as the Annual Friendship Dinner. Each year, the Annual Friendship Dinner brings together many prominent members of our society and thereby supports the message of tolerance and peace. Through these activities, IDI Montreal provides its modest contribution to the improvement of civil society.

More info: montreal.idialogue.ca



ESPRITS CRÉATIFS
CONCOURS JEUNESSE

CREATIVE MINDS
YOUTH CONTEST

2. Art and Essay Contest

Creative Minds Youth Contest is a collaborative venture between IDI Montreal and different school board established in Greater Montreal area intended for the secondary schools. It is supported by the Montreal Fine Art Museum, English Montreal School Board, Federation des Etablissements d'enseignements privees, Comission Scolaire Pointe-de-l'île. Creative Minds Youth Contest aims to motivate youth to reflect on a variety of topics relating to peace, diversity and intercultural understanding and provide them with a unique opportunity to express their ideas on a particular topic through writing and art or video work. The contest will make a positive impact on our common goal of rising youth as socially responsible citizens and strengthening the culture of pace.

The theme of this year's contest is **"Human Footprints on Earth : Impacts & Solutions"**. Neighbourly values have an important place in many cultures and faith traditions around the world. We believe that it is essential to foster these values among culturally diverse citizens of our society as a way of building bridges between people and communities Encouraging students to ask questions and think about improving our community rich in its differences but unique in terms of commonalities. This question is even more important today with the omnipresence in our lives of "friends or followers, the reality of

social networks nowadays. This is particularly true for the region the Island of Montreal which is home for a rich cultural mosaic. Therefore, promoting neighborly values among the youth of Montreal region will prepare them to be emphatic citizens of their communities and the globe which strongly resonates with the school boards curriculum's goals and efforts in this area.

3. About the theme and Resources

Each year's theme is different. This year's theme is:

"Human Footprint on Earth: Impacts & Solutions"

According to the National Geographic, "Humans have influenced 83% of the Earth's surface." Who likes orange juice? "Over your lifetime, 12 000 oranges will travel 23 million miles to reach you. This is all part of your Human Footprint."

When planning your submission(s), try to think about the following keywords and questions related to the theme. Please note that the questions and keywords above are intended to help you to think on the theme. However, they shouldn't limit your thoughts as the theme can mean a lot more than those questions and keywords. Therefore, when composing your work, feel free to be creative. Just remember you want to present your ideas in a way that will inspire the reader to think and become aware of the importance of the theme.

Keywords & Key concepts:

- **Human footprint**

- Every human activity demands natural resources and produces waste. The measure of that impact on the environment is called out ecological footprint

- **Carbon footprint**

- The total sets of greenhouse gas emissions caused by an organization, event, product, or person.

- **Conservation of biodiversity and ecosystems**

- Biodiversity: the variety or richness of different kinds of living organisms in a specific place or on a global scale

- Ecosystem: Includes all of the living things in a given area and the way they interact with each other, as well as their non-living environment (water, earth, sun)

- **Areas of human impact, i.e. the Great Pacific Garbage Patch**

- The Great Pacific Garbage Patch is a collection of garbage (plastics, chemical sludge) in the North Pacific Ocean that spans from the West Coast of North America to Japan.

- <http://education.nationalgeographic.com/encyclopedia/great-pacific-garbage-patch/>

Some questions to focus on

- What does the human footprint mean to you?
 - Is it only the reduction of our carbon footprint?
 - Should we include other things like the conservation of biodiversity and ecosystems?
- Does our human footprint extend to the oceans?
 - The Great Pacific Garbage Patch is an example.
 - Think of the case of Nomura jellyfish and their population explosion in the billions when there is a change in the temperature or salinity of the oceans.
 - We kill about 100 000 sharks a year. What would our oceans look like without them?
- Human activities are polluting nature and having a negative impact on the quality of life around the world.
 - Who do you think is most affected by these negative impacts? (Think of what a drought means to California versus what it means to Ethiopia).
- Do you think business and industrial activities have a greater impact than the sheer number of human beings on our planet?
 - How much of an impact do you think human activity had on climate change?
 - How do we balance economic interests with environmental protection?
 - How do we address environmental protection and a lessening of our footprint between rich nations and poorer nations?
- Do we have a responsibility to minimize our effects on and preserve the environment?

- Is it an ethical/moral reason?
- Do you think politicians — as community leaders and themselves humans — have a responsibility to champion the environmental in all policies?
- Should we even care about our impact? What responsibility do we have to future generations to preserve the Earth?
- What can we do to reduce our human footprint locally, nationally, and globally?
 - How do we mobilize people to take responsibility for reducing their footprint?
 - Think of the declining populations of Monarch Butterflies and their extraordinary migration. How would you go about convincing your neighbourhood to plant milkweed and help them out?
- What can the City of Montreal and its suburbs do to minimize their footprint?
- What can schools and students do?
- The David Suzuki Foundation's website has a list of lifestyle changes that we can use to reduce our carbon footprint.
 - <http://www.davidsuzuki.org/what-you-can-do/reduce-your-carbon-footprint/>
 - Which seem the most realistic to you?
 - Which do you think will be most effective?
- What successes have you heard of in the news of reducing our human footprint?
 - Is there a specific case study you would like to highlight?
 - What have you yourself done to reduce your footprint?

Some websites:

<http://www.nationalgeographic.com/xpeditions/lessons/14/g68/HumanFootprint.pdf>

<http://education.nationalgeographic.com/activity/mapping-our-human-footprint/>

http://www.wwf.org.au/our_work/people_and_the_environment/human_footprint/

<http://www.worldwildlife.org/pages/living-planet-report-2014>

Some key people:

- **David Suzuki**

- “The Nature of Things” focuses on environmental issues caused by human activities

- **Rachel Carson**

- Regarded as the founder of the modern environmental movement

- “The Silent Spring” (1962): describes the devastating effects of pesticides

- **Julia Hill**

- Lived for 2 years in an ancient Redwood in California to prevent it from being cut down

- **Chico Mendes**

- Known for his efforts to save Brazil’s rain forests from logging and ranching activity

- **Wangari Maatahai**

- Founded the Green Belt Movement in Kenya

- Planted 30 million trees and provided jobs while preventing soil erosion and securing firewood

- **Gaylord Nelson**

- American politician: Wilderness Act, Clean Air Act, Clean Water Act

- Founder of Earth Day

- Model for politicians?

4. Contest and Submission Rules

GENERAL GUIDELINES

- All entrants must be secondary school students.
- Entries should represent students' interpretation of the theme: **"Human Footprint on Earth: Impacts and Solution"**
- All entries must be submitted no later than **January 18th, 2015.**
- No work should contain any material that is libelous, defamatory, profane or obscene;
- Winning entries are based on grade-appropriate skills and creativity and will be judged on message and content. The decisions of the judges are final.
- Entrants will continue to own the rights of their works, but when they enter the Creative Minds Youth Contest they agree that their works may be reproduced, printed and displayed, for not-for-profit purposes, with their names and grade levels by Intercultural Dialogue Institute.

GUIDELINES FOR ESSAY SUBMISSIONS

- Essays may be one of the following four types: persuasive essay, informative essay, narrative story or true story.
- Essays must be original, unpublished, and written by one student, and **must not exceed** 1000 words.
- Students may only submit one (1) essay within the Essay Contest. Students who submit an essay are still permitted to enter (1) submission in the Art or/and Video Contest.
- Each sponsoring teacher must submit no more than ten (10) essays in total.

GUIDELINES FOR ARTWORK SUBMISSIONS

- Artworks can be submitted in any two or three-dimensional media including the following: drawing, painting, collage, photography, graphic design.
- Artwork submitted must be original, unpublished and created/authored by one person.
- Students may only submit one (1) piece of artwork (in any medium) within the Art Contest. Students who submit artwork are still permitted to enter (1) submission in the essay portion of the Contest.
 - **General art submissions** (except photography and graphic design) must be two-dimensional artworks up to 20" x 20" (50cm x50cm) in size.
 - **Photography submissions:** Photography work includes colour and black & white works. Please do not frame and do not mount photography submissions.
 - **Graphic design submissions:** Graphic design work is defined as the use of computer media and innovative computer applications in art. Please do not frame and do not mount graphic design works.

GUIDELINES FOR VIDEO SUBMISSIONS

- Entrants must submit an original video which explores the contest theme '**Human Footprint on Earth: Impacts and Solutions**'.
- People appearing in the video do not have to be youth. However, the videos must reflect the students' opinions or reflections about the theme.
- The video should be 4 minutes or less in length including title and end credits.
- The type of video submitted is up to the discretion of the entrant. It may be a live performance, an edited piece, narrative, non-narrative or any combination thereof.
- Multiple students may work together to make one video, as long as all members of the group are high school students

- Videos should not contain any material that is libelous, defamatory, profane or obscene;
- Entrants must get the consent of everyone appearing in their videos if their faces are recognizable.
- Entrants must get the consent of everyone whose copyrighted, patented or trademarked material appears in their videos.
- Entrants must get the consent of everyone whose music is used in their videos unless consent is not needed (due to lack of copyright etc.).
- If the English language is not used in the video, English subtitles or a transcript must be provided. If the French language is not used in the video, French subtitles or a transcript must be provided.

Content Formatting

Videos

Motion video should be captured to or supplied in standard .MPG files meeting the following standards:

- File Extension: refer to “Supported File Types” depending on submission type.
- Frame Size: 720p, 1080p, 1080i
- Actual Screen size (540px X 300px)
- Audio: Stereo Audio if required

Images

- File Extension: “.JPG”
- Please note: if the image data is line drawings, rather than photos, .png will provide the best image quality
- Image Width: 540
- Image Height: 300
- Colour Depth: 16 bit or 24 bit

Animations

Flash files should be generated using the following details:

- Image: 720p, or 1080p
- *Note: While flash content will be scaled to full screen, certain element types should be considered using the full screen size listed above. Develop content with an actual playback size of 540×300 in mind. Please do not loop.

Music

- There are many options for music to accompany your video. For this contest we are only accepting original music or royalty-free music:
- Original music: An original music score, one that you or you and your team have composed. This is a big undertaking; however you own the music and are not restricted in how you use it.
- Royalty-free music: There are many online sites that offer royalty-free music. This type of music doesn't require you to pay a licensing fee in order to use it.
- Music that requires a licensing fee will not be accepted.

5. **Deadline for submissions is January 18th, 2016**

6. **Awards Ceremony**

The contest winners and finalists will be recognized and awarded at the awards dinner which will be held on (To be announced) at the Centre Mont-Royal Congress Center. Top ten students in each category will attend the dinner along with their teachers and parents/guardians. Distinguished guests will attend the dinner to celebrate the talent of the winners and finalists. The event will also feature a distinguished keynote speaker. Top 10 artworks and essays will be exhibited during the dinner. Teachers of winning students will receive awards of appreciation and recognition.

Contest Prizes

Prizes will be awarded in each contest category.

Each participant in the Top 10 will receive a certification plaque.

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