



SHARE YOUR BOLD  
THOUGHTS!

# JOIN OUR ESSAY COMPETITION

YOUR VOICE.  
YOUR IDEAS.  
YOUR CHANCE TO WIN.

OPEN FOR ALL  
STOCKHOLM  
INTERNATIONAL  
MIDDLE SCHOOL  
STUDENTS!

WE'RE ASKING ONE BOLD QUESTION:

**CAN THE GOALS OF PROMOTING FREEDOM OF SPEECH AT  
SCHOOL AND CREATING A WELCOMING ENVIRONMENT FOR ALL  
STUDENTS COEXIST OR ARE THEY MUTUALLY EXCLUSIVE?**

**ESSAY SUBMISSIONS OPEN SOON — DEADLINE IS  
OCTOBER 31, 2025**

#### CASH PRIZE

**1<sup>ST</sup> PLACE - 5,000 SEK  
2<sup>ND</sup> PLACE - 3,000 SEK  
3<sup>RD</sup> PLACE - 1,000 SEK**

**AWARDS  
CEREMONY THIS  
DECEMBER!**

**DETAILS WILL BE POSTED AT:**

**[WWW.UNITEDWESTANDPR.ORG](http://WWW.UNITEDWESTANDPR.ORG)**

**THINK DEEP. WRITE BOLD. CHANGE MINDS.**



**Questions? Contact us:**

**[2025essaycompetition@unitedwestandpr.org](mailto:2025essaycompetition@unitedwestandpr.org)**

## **2025 United We Stand PR Essay Competition**

### *Empowering Student Writers*

United We Stand PR (UWS) Essay Competition fosters essential skills in young writers, including independent thought, in-depth knowledge, clear reasoning, critical analysis, and persuasive writing. By participating, students can explore thought-provoking topics beyond the classroom, develop their knowledge, and hone their critical thinking skills.

This year's essay topic is:

"Can the goals of promoting freedom of speech at school and creating a welcoming environment for all students coexist, or are they mutually exclusive?"

#### *Entry Requirements:*

- Open to active Stockholm International Middle School students
- Essays should not exceed 1,500 words
- Essays should be in MLA format and should not include footnotes, but endnotes and a bibliography are permitted
- Filename format: FirstName-LastName-GradeLevel.pdf (e.g., Jane-Doe-6V.pdf)
  - Please ensure that your name does not appear anywhere within the essay document itself.
- Each participant will be required to sign an Honor Code affirming that they authored the essay independently without assistance from AI tools such as ChatGPT. If any concerns arise about potential policy breaches, UWS reserves the right to contact the student's parent to verify the originality of the submitted work.

#### *Submission and Review:*

Essays will be evaluated based on knowledge, evidence, argumentation, originality, structure, writing style, and persuasive force.

By submitting, participants grant UWS permission to use their data for processing, communication, and potential publication to showcase award-winning work.

#### *Criteria*

Essays will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

- Knowledge and understanding of the topic
- Effective use of evidence
- Quality of argumentation

- Originality
- Structure
- Writing style
- Persuasive force

Top essays will demonstrate the ability to convincingly present a well-supported argument that could potentially change readers' perspectives. To achieve this, essays should address the strongest counterarguments and anticipate/respond to potential objections. This approach will enable students to demonstrate a sophisticated grasp of the topic and present a persuasive argument that holds up to close examination.

*Prizes and Recognition:*

1st Place: 5,000 sek  
2nd Place: 3,000 sek  
3rd Place: 1,000 sek

The top essayists will be invited to an awards dinner in December, where the winners will be announced. To claim the cash prize, winners must attend the ceremony in person. If a winner cannot attend, the prize will be awarded to the next winner present.

*Key Dates:*

Essay Submission Deadline: October 31, 2025

For questions or concerns, email: [2025essaycompetition@unitedwestandpr.org](mailto:2025essaycompetition@unitedwestandpr.org)

*Judging and Results:*

Judges' decisions are final and non-negotiable

Selected essayists may be contacted for further discussion about their submissions

UWS selection process is proprietary and confidential

No parents of Stockholm International School (SIS) students will serve as judges.

Our decisions regarding these matters are final and binding.