



The Australasian Society for Classical Studies

DOUGLAS KELLY AUSTRALIAN ESSAY COMPETITION

2025

GUIDELINES AND RULES

ASCS is an inclusive organisation. It encourages entries from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students, students who are living with disabilities, students of diverse gender and sexuality, mature-age students, and students from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds.

1. Candidates must be undergraduate students enrolled at an Australian tertiary institution.
2. There is a limit of one entry per candidate.
3. Candidates are requested to submit their entry as two files: their essay (typed and double-spaced) and a cover sheet (provided). Their entry should be submitted as an e-mail attachment (.pdf preferred). If the file is large, please consider using a large file web transfer service.

Candidates are asked to include in the body of their e-mail the following details as on the cover sheet: name, essay title, postal address, the university, and the level of the unit for which the essay was written.

4. The subject of the essay may reflect any aspect of Classical Studies broadly defined: the languages, literatures, thought, histories, religions, archaeology and receptions of the ancient world. This very much includes essays on Egyptian and Near Eastern.
5. The essay should be an independent piece of work but may have begun its existence as an essay, tutorial or seminar paper for one of the units in which the candidate is or was enrolled.
6. The length of the essay should be between 2000 and 3000 words, inclusive of references.

7. Candidates should indicate on the cover sheet the level at which the essay is to be considered – first, second or third year of tertiary study. They should also specify their tertiary affiliation.
8. The essay **must** be submitted through the relevant ASCS university representative. A list of university representatives [can be found here](#). Students should ensure that their entry is in the hands of their university's ASCS representative **one week before** the closing date for the receipt of entries to allow for final checking. Essays submitted individually to the competition coordinator will not be considered. In other words, candidates should aim to submit essays to their university representative **by December 12**.
9. The ASCS university representative must ensure that all essays submitted reach the competition coordinator by the closing date. The final closing date will be **strictly applied**.
10. Entries will be evaluated by two judges who are appointed each year by the ASCS award co-ordinator.
11. Each entry must be rendered anonymous by the removal of any reference to the candidate's name on the essay itself, and any indication of the candidate's institution in the body of the text or in the footnotes (e.g., by reference to specific university course books cited). Failure to render the entry anonymous will lead to disqualification of the entry by the judges.
12. Candidates will be notified by e-mail (at the address provided) of the result of their entry, normally by the end of February. The winner will receive a cash prize (currently \$500); up to two "runner-up" prizes of \$100 each may be awarded. The results of the competition will be published in the Society's Newsletter. Prize-winning essays may be published in the journal *Classicum*.
13. The judges will not provide comments for candidates on individual pieces of work, nor will they engage in correspondence with candidates.
14. **N.B.: Campus representatives should ensure entries are submitted to the competition coordinator no later than 19 December. None will be accepted after this date. It is strongly advised that candidates scan their entries as pdfs and e-mail them to their university representative.**
15. The co-ordinator is Dr. Andrew Connor (andrew.connor@monash.edu) to whom campus representatives should send all submissions, and to whom all candidates can (and are very encouraged to) direct further questions.