

# International New York Times

## 2016 Asia Pacific Writing Competition **Guidelines For University Students**

### **Introduction**

Thank you for participating in the 2016 Asia Pacific Writing Competition. Each year, the INYT invites secondary and tertiary students across Asia to submit a short piece on an important global issue. Entries are judged by an esteemed panel of New York Times editors and journalists, with the winning entries published in the INYT newspaper across Asia.

This year's topic is "Global Youth" and the submission deadline is Friday 29 July, 2016. All secondary and undergraduate level students are invited to participate. Each student will receive a free 4-week subscription to NYTimes.com to assist them with their submission, along with a certificate recognizing their participation in the competition.

Please find the competition details and guidelines below. If you have any questions about the competition or encounter problems submitting your entry, please contact Mandy Lam.

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### **Competition Details:**

Topic: Global Youth

Submission deadline: 29 July 2016

Submission format: See Regulations & Guidelines

Submission instructions: All entries must be submitted via email through the canvas website:

<https://canvas.instructure.com/enroll/7GWRYR>

## Regulations & Guidelines

TOPIC	Global Youth
CATEGORY	University
SUBMISSION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Must be an original writing piece</li><li>• Individual or Group (max. 3 students, must all be from the same school)</li></ul>
ARTICLE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Use a wide range of vocabulary</li><li>• Structure should be fluent and consistent</li><li>• Should be creative and captivating</li><li>• Follow the layout and feel of a typical INYT article. <b>Sample attached</b></li></ul>
FORMAT	<p><b>Font:</b> Times New Roman, Size 10 <b>Page size:</b> A4 <b>Length:</b> 1 page <u>only</u>, single-spaced (approximately 900 words) <b>Document:</b> submit your work in WORD format (PDF cannot be accepted) <b>File Name:</b> Use the following format Surname_First Name_INYT2016</p>
PHOTOGRAPH	No more than 1 photo may be included in the <u>same</u> page. Due to space restrictions, photographs accompanying the winning article will not be published
JUDGING CRITERIA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Content (50%): Main ideas and supporting ideas</li><li>• Form (30%): Grammar, organization and craftsmanship</li><li>• Impression (20%): Prognosis and personal reaction</li></ul>
PRIZE (CHAMPION)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Entry to be published in the Asia Pacific edition of the INYT (date TBC)</li><li>• One-year digital subscription to NYTimes.com</li><li>• US\$50 gift voucher per group</li><li>• INYT trophy</li></ul>
PRIZE (RUNNER-UP)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Six-month digital subscription to NYTimes.com</li><li>• US\$25 gift voucher per group</li><li>• INYT trophy</li></ul>
SUBMISSION DEADLINE	29 July 2016, Midnight HKT
SUBMISSION WEBSITE	<a href="https://canvas.instructure.com/enroll/7GWRYP">https://canvas.instructure.com/enroll/7GWRYP</a> (must create a new account)

## Sample Article Format

**Name:** <Your\_name\_here>

**Title of Article:** <Title>

Prior to reading this article, please shut your eyes for 5 seconds.

While your eyes were shut, two children died as victims of poverty. One of these children was killed by an easily curable disease; the other's life could have been spared if it weren't for the lack of proper sanitation in their community. In this past year, five million people have died as a result of poor water sanitation. Last year, 6 million children under the age of five, like the countless thousands who were born into the same slums in previous generations, died of malnutrition. This number is equivalent to half the total population of Beijing in China. So why aren't the more fortunate among us taking the initiative to break the cycle of poverty?

There is almost nothing new about the cycle of poverty. We all know of how illiterate parents perpetuate illiteracy to the next generation, how children of indentured peasants inherit their parent's debts, how the following generation is always plundered deeper and deeper into the swirling well of poverty. The added complexities and dimensions of global terrorism and worldwide pandemics are the new, looming factors concerning the cycle. Relieving poverty is no longer merely just an issue of ethics and moral responsibility. It is also an urgent matter of protecting the world against violence and disease.

Poverty begets ignorance. Poor children of certain cultures have been indoctrinated to pursue extremism and martyrdom. With no economic future, dispossessed and powerless youth would see the world as a struggle between the believers and the infidels. For them, violence is only recourse to settle religious and political differences. However, violent religious extremism is not our only scourge. With burgeoning international trade and travel, infectious diseases may even be a bigger problem. These diseases emerging from developing countries are becoming prolific with the aid of global traveling and world trade. As an air borne virus rooting from deep within a poor community in Mexico is being transmitted from country to country as we speak, the world is sent into a chaotic frenzy.

Moreover, nervously watching the numbers on the stock market nose dive at a terrifying rate (on top of the imminent fear of becoming jobless parent), supporting the family is enough to make anyone push the concerns of poverty to the last priority and focus on their own immediate situation. With the

**School Name:** <Name>

added pressure of the economic downturn, people are becoming increasingly reluctant to make donations the difficulty in addressing the poverty crisis.

Additionally, to support the millions added to the world's population each year, we need another doubling of the amount of crop yield we have achieved in the past three decades. Without this exponential increase in harvests, those in poverty will fall into unmanageable famine.

Though providing items such as clothing and food will allow these helpless people survive another day, it will not assist them in achieving their ultimate goal: to transcend their circumstances with confidence and dignity. There are many factors that contribute to the cycle of poverty but there is one that can unlock the logjam: education. Education is essentially the solution to the ongoing poverty issue, as knowledge and literacy enable individuals to fix the Catch 22s in society. Generally speaking, education has become mandatory in many countries because society expects each child to mature and gradually become an additional puzzle piece that contributes to the delicate balance of governmental workers, businessmen, social workers etc. In particular cases however (communities that are in desperate need of daily necessities), schooling will lead the people into living much more bearable lives.

Firstly, literacy will raise the life expectancy to a much higher level. A mother for example, would be able to read the instructions on a medicine packet to give her child appropriate doses. Secondly, educating the poor on modern farming methods improves the quality of their harvests; allowing families to sell produce at a higher price and steadily increase their standards pursue extremism and martyrdom. With no economic future, dispossessed and powerless youth would see the world as a struggle between the believers and the infidels. For them, violence is only recourse to settle religious and political differences. However, violent religious extremism is not our only scourge. With burgeoning international trade and travel, infectious diseases may even be a bigger problem. These diseases emerging from developing countries are becoming prolific with the aid of global traveling and world trade. As an air borne virus rooting from deep within a poor community in Mexico is being transmitted from country to country as we speak, the world is sent into a chaotic frenzy.