



ESSAY COMPETITION – SUBMISSION CRITERIA

Topic of the competition:

“The Role of Youth in Building a Resilient Rule of Law”

Submission Requirements

Submissions for the ELSA x LexisNexis Essay Competition must:

- Use in British English in compliance with the [Language Manual](#);
- Be the original work of the authors submitting them for publication;
- Comply with the ELSA Law Review [Plagiarism Policy](#);
- Be referenced in accordance with the Oxford University Standard for the Citation of Legal Authorities (OSCOLA);
- Not have been published elsewhere;
- Include a short abstract, consisting of a maximum of 10% of the length of the submission, as well as an author’s biography not exceeding 100 words;
- Be submitted as a file readable by Microsoft Word;
- Be no longer than 7,500 words including footnotes and appendices.

Any submissions not meeting the above-mentioned criteria shall not be taken into consideration during the initial assessment phase nor the peer-reviewing.

Essays submitted after **14/04/2023 23:59 CEST** shall not be taken into consideration. All the essays shall be submitted on the relevant form on the [website](#).

The winning essay shall be rewarded with **the LexisNexis Rule of Law Award** and will be published **in the Second issue of the 2023 ELSA Law Review**. The Award is provided by LexisNexis – the Rule of Law partner of ELSA. LexisNexis will invite the winning author to visit one of their offices in Europe.



The criteria used by the Editorial Board during the initial assessment phase shall be the following:

Assessment criteria

Relevance

- Does the essay **comply** with the topic of the Essay Competition?
- Is there a **clear and interesting thesis**?
- Does the author show a **good grasp** of the essay topic, developing it with depth?
- Is the essay **understandable** to a reader that is not familiar with the topic?
- Does the essay make an original contribution to the field, through **new arguments/ perspectives/ conclusions/ recommendations** on the topic?
- Will the essay capture and maintain the **reader's attention**?

Structure and Style

- Does the essay adhere to the **Style Guide**?
- Do the **title and abstract** reflect the contents of the essay?
- Is there a clear **introduction, main body and conclusion**?
- Is there coherence to the sentences and paragraphs?

Use of Language

- Is the use of language consistent with the recommendations of the **ELSA Law Review Language Manual**?
- Is there a consistent use of **non-discriminatory and gender-neutral language**?
- Is the English language and punctuation consistently and accurately in the style of **British English**?
- Is the use of British English in the standard and legal form to a **high enough standard** expected for the ELSA Law Review?
- Is there a **logical flow and structure** in the language used?

Sources and Referencing

- Does the submission cite sources in accordance with **OSCOLA**?
- Does the submission appear to be in **compliance** with the **ELSA Law Review Plagiarism Policy**?
- Does the range of sources referenced reflect the submission?

The logo for the European Law Students' Association (ELSA). It features the word 'elsa' in a lowercase, white, serif font.

The European Law Students' Association