



Australasian Students' Surgical Association

2019 ASSA Essay Competition

Essay Topic

Surgery; A Life Commitment?

Criteria for submission

Written by a current medical student at an Australian or New Zealand University

Limit of 1500 words and abides by the required format (see below)

Due date

Midnight of Sunday 19th May 2019

Judging

Submissions will be shortlisted by the Australasian Students' Surgical Association (ASSA) and the top essay selected by a Panel of Academic Surgeons across Australia and New Zealand from a range of surgical specialties. The winner will be notified and announced after the final decision is made by the Panel.

Publication

The winning essay will be published on the ASSA website (<http://anzsurgsocs.org/>) and shared on the ASSA Facebook. This essay may also be considered for journal publication.

Submission: Essays are to be submitted via email to Jason Luong, Academic Officer: academic@anzsurgsocs.org. If you have any questions, please contact Jason via this email address.



2019 Australasian Students' Surgical Association Essay Competition

ASSA is delighted to announce the topic for its annual Essay Competition in 2019.

Mental welfare, burnout and work-life balance are important issues for Surgeons and Surgical Trainees, who face high pressure work environments and long hours. This year's question welcomes a discussion around the sustainability of the current system, with consideration of its impact on the lives of Trainees and Surgeons, and the ongoing need for high quality surgical care.

The topic of the 2019 ASSA Essay Competition is '*Surgery; A Life Commitment?*'

Open Date: 1st April 2019

Due Date: Midnight of Sunday 19th May 2019

Prizes for the winning essay: Consideration for journal publication and a premium suturing kit kindly donated by RACS NSW.

Prize for the runner-up: A copy of *Surgery, the Ultimate Placebo: A surgeon cuts through the evidence* by Ian Harris.

Criteria

- The essay must be written by a **current medical student as of 2019**
- The author must be enrolled an **Australian or New Zealand** medical school
- The essay must not have been previously submitted or published
- Submission must be made no later than midnight of Sunday the 19th of May 2019

Essay Format

- Word limit: 1500 (excluding any figures/references)
- Font: Arial
- Font size for heading: 12pt
- Font size for content: 10pt
- Default margins
- Include references (up to 10) and figures (up to 2) if necessary
- The cover page should include:
 - Name
 - Email address
 - Phone/mobile number
 - Year of Study
 - Name of Medical School
 - Word count of essay

*The above information on the cover page should **not** be included on any other pages*



Judging

- The essays will be reviewed by a panel of members from the ASSA using a standardised marking rubric.
- Essays will be judged on their flow, focus, ideas, quality of evidence and organisation of thought.
- The top entries will then be adjudicated by an external body of Academic Surgeons across Australia and New Zealand and the winners selected.
- The winner will be notified and announced following the final decision of the marking Panel.