



Judging Criteria

All entries will go through a **two-stage judging process**:

Stage 1 – Public Voting

- Every submitted essay will be published online for public reading and voting.
- Members of the public will be encouraged to vote based on **quality, creativity, and relevance to the theme**, not popularity of the participant.
- The **20 entries with the highest number of valid votes** will be shortlisted for the final stage.

Stage 2 – Head Judge's Review

The shortlisted 20 entries will be carefully reviewed by our **Head Judge**. Each will be assessed against the following criteria:

1. **Relevance to the Theme** – Does the essay align with *Hidden Figures: The Untold Stories of Black Women & Men in History*?
2. **Depth of Research & Originality** – Has the participant uncovered meaningful, lesser-known stories with accurate and well-supported facts?
3. **Clarity & Structure** – Is the essay well-organised, easy to read, and logically presented?
4. **Creativity & Storytelling** – Does the essay capture the reader's attention with a unique and engaging style?
5. **Reflection & Impact** – Does the essay explain why the chosen figure matters today and how their story inspires future generations?

Final Decision:

- The Head Judge will select the **Top 3 Winners** based on the above criteria.
- The decision of the Head Judge is final.