Public Voting Process

To ensure fairness and transparency, here's how the voting will work:

Step 1: Access the Entries

- All shortlisted essays will be published on the competition webpage.
- Each entry will be displayed with its title, the participant's first name/ID, and the full text (500–800 words).

Step 2: Read Before You Vote

- Members of the public are encouraged to carefully read each essay.
- Essays can be opened individually to make reading easier.

Step 3: Cast Your Vote

- A "Vote" button or form will appear with the participants first name and title of the essay.
- Voters can select their preferred essay and submit their choice.
- We encourage **one vote per entry** and **one overall submission**

Step 4: Voting Criteria
When voting, the public should consider:

1. Relevance to the theme *Hidden Figures*.
2. Depth of research and originality.
3. Clarity and writing style.
4. Creativity and storytelling.
5. Reflection on why the chosen figure matters today.

Step 5: Counting the Votes

- Votes will be collected electronically and verified.
- Any signs of vote manipulation or spam entries will be removed.

Step 6: Selection of Finalists

- The **20 entries with the highest number of valid public votes** will move forward.
- These 20 will then be reviewed by the **Head Judge**, who will select the **Top 3 Winners**.

Step 7: Announcement

- Winners will be announced on the competition webpage and through Afrikindness' official social media platforms.
- Certificates and prizes will be awarded to the Top 3 winners.

This process ensures that every entry is given a fair chance, the public plays an active role, and the final decision reflects both community engagement and expert judgment.