



2022 Australian Red Cross *Laws of War Essay Competition:* Information Pack

Open to tertiary students in all disciplines.
Deadline for submissions: September 11, 2022

Australian Red Cross is pleased to launch the **2022 Australian Red Cross Laws of War Essay Competition**. The laws of war, also known as international humanitarian law (IHL), seek to limit the effects of armed conflict. They protect persons who are not or are no longer participating in the hostilities and restrict the means and methods of warfare. This topical competition aims to encourage students to engage with challenges currently facing IHL.

It is open to all tertiary students at Australian institutions, and we particularly encourage students of diverse disciplines and backgrounds to submit.

Please see the remainder of this pack for Competition Details and Rules.

Competition Details:

Deadline for submissions:

11.59pm (AWST), 11th September 2022

Via email to ihlupdate@redcross.org.au

Question:

What is the biggest challenge facing international humanitarian law – also known as the laws of war – in the 21st century? Discuss with reference to one of the following:

Protection of civilians;

- Protection of civilian objects, such as schools;
- Provision of health care and humanitarian aid in conflict zones;
- Consequences of armed conflict for the natural environment; or
- Safety of journalists.

Word limit:

1500-2000 words (exclusive of footnote references).

Prize:

The winning entrant will receive a book voucher for Boffins Books valued at \$100 with thanks to the generosity of the Dorothy and Bill Irwin Charitable Trust. The winning entry will also have the opportunity to publish the final paper on the Australian Red Cross International Humanitarian Law blog. For further information, see the *Competition Rules* contained within this pack.

Judging:

Judges will be appointed by Australian Red Cross. The entries will be judged based on: (a) quality of answer to the set question; (b) quality of research; (c) clarity of expression and argument; and (d) originality. The winning entry will be determined by consensus of the judges from among those judged to have the greatest merit.

For further information on any of the above, see the *Competition Rules* contained within this pack.

2022 Australian Red Cross Laws of War Essay Competition Rules

1. Applicability

1.1. These rules apply to the 2022 Australian Red Cross Laws of War Essay Competition, which is organised by Australian Red Cross, with particular thanks to the Western Australian (WA) IHL Advisory Committee.

2. Definitions

- 2.1. Entry: refers to the submitted essay.
- 2.2. Entrant: refers to the person submitting the essay for judging.
- 2.3. Competition: 2022 Australian Red Cross Laws of War Essay Competition.

3. Eligibility

- 3.1. Any student currently enrolled at an Australian tertiary education institution may enter the competition.
- 3.2. 'Currently enrolled' includes students who have completed all requirements of a qualification but, at the closing date for entries, have not yet graduated.
- 3.3. Only one entry per entrant is permitted.

4. Judges

- 4.1. The judges will be appointed by Australian Red Cross.

5. Originality

- 5.1. By entering the competition, entrants are declaring that the entry is their own except where clearly acknowledged through appropriate citation.
- 5.2. Entrants agree that their work may, at the discretion of the judges, be subject to scrutiny as to its originality, including but not limited to submission of the entry to text matching or other software.
- 5.3. Entries may include, without express acknowledgement, content that has been submitted by the entrant for assessment as part of their studies (for example, an essay submitted in a particular subject). This will not be considered as plagiarism for this competition.
- 5.4. Entrants may not submit work that has, in whole or in part, been submitted to any other essay competition or for publication.

6. Requirements of the Entry

- 6.1. Entries must take the form of a researched essay.
- 6.2. Entries must answer the question specified in Appendix 1.
- 6.3. References should take the form of footnotes.
- 6.4. A bibliography must be included.

- 6.5. Entries must be no less than 1500 words and no more than 2000 words.
 - 6.5.1. The word limit of 2000 words is absolute (i.e., there is no leeway).
 - 6.5.2. The word limit is exclusive of footnote references.
 - 6.5.3. The word limit does include discursive footnotes.
 - 6.5.4. Any in-text referencing will be included in the word count.
 - 6.5.5. The word limit of 2000 words does not count the words that form part of the bibliography.

7. Technical Requirements

- 7.1. All times refer to Australian Western Standard Time.
- 7.2. All entries must be submitted to ihupdate@redcross.org.au by the advertised time and date. Please include the words 'Laws of War Essay Competition' in the Subject line and a copy of the entry form at Appendix 2 as a separate attachment.
- 7.3. All entries must be submitted in a MS Word file format; that is, the file must have a .doc or .docx suffix. Entries submitted in a different file format will not be accepted.
- 7.4. All essays must be submitted from an email address associated with the entrant's enrolment at an Australian tertiary institution (i.e. an 'edu.au' suffix).

8. Judging

- 8.1. Judges' decisions are final.
- 8.2. The entries will be judged based on:
 - 8.2.1. Quality of answer to the set question
 - 8.2.2. Quality of research
 - 8.2.3. Clarity of expression and argument
 - 8.2.4. Originality

- 8.3. Each entry will be judged by one nominated judge and will be awarded a mark out of 100.
- 8.4. The winning entry will be determined by consensus of the judges from among those judged to have the greatest merit. This may mean that the winning entry does not obtain the highest mark awarded by an individual judge.
- 8.5. The judges reserve the right not to award a winner if none of the submissions are considered to be of publishable quality.

9. Prizes

- 9.1. The winner of the competition will receive a book voucher for Boffins Books valued at \$100.
- 9.2. The winning entry will also be published on the Australian Red Cross International Humanitarian Law blog at <https://www.redcross.org.au>, subject to the following:
 - 9.2.1. Publication on the Australian Red Cross International Humanitarian Law blog is subject to the approval of the editors and Australian Red Cross. Approval may be refused or amendment may be required prior to publication. Suggested edits may be based on the [Fundamental Principles](#) of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement.
 - 9.2.2. The winning entrant may decline to make the edits required for publication, in which case the winning entry will not be published.
 - 9.2.3. Other entries identified by the judges as having high levels of merit may be offered the opportunity to publish the whole or edited entry on the Australian Red Cross International Humanitarian Law blog.

Appendix 1: Question

What is the biggest challenge facing international humanitarian law – also known as the laws of war – in the 21st century? Discuss with reference to one of the following:

- Protection of civilians;
- Protection of civilian objects, such as schools;
- Provision of health care and humanitarian aid in conflict zones;
- Consequences of armed conflict for the natural environment; or
- Safety of journalists.

Appendix 2: Entry Form

Entrant's full name:

I declare that I am currently enrolled in the degree of

_____ at

_____ [name of tertiary institution].

I declare that the entry is my original work, and that it has not been submitted or accepted for publication.

I declare this entry is _____ words (excluding bibliographical references).

I acknowledge that the views in the entry are my own and do not necessarily represent the views or opinions of Australian Red Cross or the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement.

Signature of entrant

Date