

# The Philsoc Student Essay Prize

## Rules and Entry Details

### Rules

1. The essay must be one that you have written as part of coursework set by your tutor on an OUDCE philosophy weekly class, online or Summer School (OUSSA) course in the current term. Essays written as a pre-course assignment for Summer School (OUSSA) courses are not admissible.
2. It must:
  - not show your real name, but must show your code name.
  - be between 750 and 1,500 words long. This includes footnotes and endnotes, but excludes bibliography and title. Essays exceeding 1,500 words by 5% or more will be disqualified. Those exceeding 1,500 words by less than 5% will be considered by the judges but their ranking may be unfavourably affected compared with compliant essays.
  - meet the submission deadline shown on the web site.
3. Each person can enter only one essay in a given term.
4. We aim to tell you if you have won first, second or third prize by the date given on the web site.

### How to Enter

To enter your essay for the Prize, email Peter Gibson (Philsoc's Hon Secretary) at [Peter.Gibson@oxfordphilsoc.org](mailto:Peter.Gibson@oxfordphilsoc.org). The email must contain:

1. Your name
2. Essay title
3. Essay code name of your choice (e.g. Plato, squidge, Pooh Bear, ZQ ... but do not use any of these or any code name you have used before)
4. Name of OUDCE philosophy course
5. The nature of the course (weekly attended class, on-line, OUSSA)
6. Tutor's name
7. Your country of residence
8. Attachment consisting of only your essay bearing your chosen code name and not your real name, and excluding any tutor's comments or marks

### Prizes

First prize: An Amazon voucher for £25, publication of your essay on Philsoc's website, one year's free membership of Philsoc and publication of your prizewinning essay in Philsoc's Annual Review, as well as a prize diploma.

Second Prize: An Amazon voucher for £15, publication of your essay on Philsoc's website and one year's free membership of Philsoc, as well as a prize diploma.

Third Prize: An Amazon voucher for £10, publication of your essay on Philsoc's website and one year's free membership of Philsoc, as well as a prize diploma.

### Marking

The judges will be looking for concise philosophical argument that recognises and gives due consideration to counter arguments. The essay should demonstrate full awareness of the philosophical significance of the question under discussion, with proper reference to relevant sources/commentators. Authors should pay close attention to the judges' general comments on previously submitted essays for guidance on what they will be looking for in a prize-worthy essay. Because it is understandably difficult to achieve all of the above within the set word limits, the judges recommend the choice of a narrower rather than a wider essay question. Word count should be checked, and overlength essays edited down to no more than 1,500 words. Also consult the Judges' Guidelines. The link is immediately before 'General Comments'.