CRITERIA - What Matters? Tasmania 2015 writing competition

Schools are requested to select their three best entries from each class in years 5-12 to enter in the competition.

**Criteria one** Original work of between 400-600 words  
**Criteria two** Careful attention to spelling and grammar  
**Criteria three** Focus on a matter or issue of significance, expressed with passionate conviction  
**Criteria four** Articulate, with an appropriate and effective use of language and logical cohesion  
**Criteria five** Creative and imaginative approach to the subject  
**Criteria six** Readable and engaging

From time to time, it may not be possible to publish an entry due to its content, for example, where an entry contains sensitive, personal content. This decision would not be taken without consultation with the school or parent/guardian as appropriate.

**Tips for 2015 WHAT MATTERS? WRITING COMPETITION provided by our judges**

The following tips have been provided by our judges to help prepare a winning entry:

1. Correct spelling and grammar are essential.
2. Authenticity. Don’t write what you think your teacher or the judges would want you to write about. Write about it because you care.
3. Personal experience. This is not essential, but a common theme with many of the standout essays is a level of personal experience.
4. Don’t overwrite. Keep the language simple and to the point. Too often the writing gets overwrought in an attempt to express how serious the subject matter is.
5. Be original.
6. Do your homework beforehand. You don’t have to fill your essay with facts and figures, but it will help you shape your understanding of what you are writing about.
7. Use examples, case studies, media reports, etc. Root your essay in real life. Please remember to acknowledge your sources.
8. Just because the subject matter is serious doesn’t mean your essay has to be completely serious. Humour expressed well can be very appealing. Humour expressed badly isn’t. If you use humour, use it judiciously.

The 2014 winning and highly commended entries can be viewed online at:  
www.whitlam.org/whatmatters or bit.ly/tased-whatmatters

We hope you find these resources helpful.

If you have any questions or require more information please contact Melanie Holness on 03 6165 6468 melanie.holness@education.tas.gov.au or visit bit.ly/tased-whatmatters

Please send all entries with signed entry forms by Friday 9 May 2015 using one of the following methods:

Post to  
Learning Services (South)  
GPO Box 169  
Hobart TAS 7001

Or scan and email to Learning.services.s@education.tas.gov.au

Or hand deliver to Learning Services (South)  
213 Cambridge Road  
Warrane TAS 7001

To assist us with processing please ensure that the entry form details are fully completed and attached to the entry, the declaration is completed and the student’s name is clearly written.