

**Sophia Jex-Blake Essay Prize Rubric**

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| **Basic Essay Requirements**  *Essays that do not meet these requirements will not be considered***.** | |
| **Formatting** | Your essay must be:   * Double spaced * Presented in a readable font * 800-1200 words in length   You must include:   * A bibliography (this does not count for your word count) * The question or prompt your essay is answering (if any) at the top of your essay * An essay title. This should be different to the question/prompt.   Do NOT include your name on your essay, they are judged anonymously. Please use the separate cover sheet. |
| **Subject Matter** | Your essay must be about women, gender or minority studies AND concern the Americas. SASA recognises a broad definition of the Americas and includes anything situated within North, South or Latin America, at any point in history. |
| **Eligibility Specification**  *You must meet these criteria to be eligible for this essay prize.* | |
| **Age** | You must be between 15 and 18 years of age at the time of submission. |
| **School** | You must be a student at a Scottish secondary school at the time of submission. |
| **Submission** | To submit your essay:   * Email your essay to [sasaessayprize@gmail.com](about:blank) as a PDF file. * In the same email, attach our pre-made cover sheet as a separate document. * Essays are due **1 November 2022.** |



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| **Mark Awarding Guidelines**  *These are the elements of a good essay, and the criteria you will be marked on.* | |
| **Structure** | Your essay should include a clear introduction, body, and conclusion.  A successful introduction will:   * Provide relevant background information to the issue. * Identify key factors for analysis. * Have a clear thesis statement, demonstrating your line of argument.   A successful conclusion will:   * Be a balanced judgement on the issue. * Clearly restate your argument. |
| **Knowledge** | You can demonstrate knowledge in your essay by:   * Making points that are relevant to the issue in question. * Developing points by providing additional detail, exemplification, or evidence. |
| **Evaluation** | Successful evaluation will:   * Compare and weigh up factors against each other (e.g. what is the most important?). * Build a clear line of argument throughout the essay. |
| **Analysis** | Successful analysis will:   * Demonstrate why your knowledge is important /answers the question. * Evaluate both sides of an argument – why something is or isn’t important/relevant. |
| **Referencing** | Your essay must include a bibliography. An example of Chicago style referencing is below, however, any referencing style is acceptable as long as you are consistent throughout.   * Bibliography: Silkenat, David. *Raising the White Flag: How Surrender Defined the American Civil War.* Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2019. |