

**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 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.
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| **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.
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| **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.
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| **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.
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| **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.
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