

**NON - FICTION (ENGLISH)**

**JUDGES STATEMENT FOR**

**MAYBANK FOUNDATION - PERDANA LEADERSHIP FOUNDATION**

**WRITING & PHOTO CONTEST 2020**

1. This is the statement of the panel of Judges for the Non-Fiction (English) category of the Maybank Foundation - Perdana Leadership Foundation Writing and Photo Contest 2020.
2. This is the third time that Maybank Foundation and Perdana Leadership Foundation are working together to engage young Malaysians. This contest ran from April until November 2020.
3. The contest was open to two age groups: 13-17 years old, and 18- 23 years old.
4. Contestants could choose to submit their entries in either Bahasa Malaysia or English. This year marks the first time that each language had its own adjudication and set of prizes.
5. The contest attracted **8,062** entries across all categories. The Non-Fiction (English) category attracted **1,500** submissions across both age groups.
6. Each entry was subjected to three rounds of judging: The first round was the qualifying round to ensure eligibility in terms of age group, title and category, and word count as well as to check for plagiarism. After the qualifying round, each entry was subjected to a shortlisting round, with the top 100 entries submitted for a final ranking round.
7. Entries were identified only by a serial number, and were evaluated independently of each other. The final marks were tabulated by the Secretariat with equal weightage given to each judge's marks to arrive at the final scores.
8. Each entry was evaluated according to various criteria, all of which were published on the contest website throughout the contest period. Judging was based on content, form, style, and overall impact.

9. The Judges noted the following:

• For the non-fiction (English) category:

- The judges found that overall, the command of English was good.
- Many could have earned higher points if they had paid closer attention to grammar, choice of words and sentence construction; however, the judges commend the overall mastery of English.
- Most entrants were competent in conducting basic research on the topic of environmental degradation, global warming, and climate action, and properly attributed their references. However, a few were disqualified due to non-attribution of references which amounted to plagiarism.
- The judges felt that some writers merely presented the findings of their research when what was expected of them were further analyses and synthesis of the findings to construct new and original arguments.
- Additionally, many students overlooked that there were two parts to the question and did not give equal weight to both parts.
- Some entries stood out because the entrants were creative in presenting the issue. More can be done to encourage creativity in non-fiction writing in schools and universities.
- The judges had a tough time selecting the winners because the quality of entries was high, with a lot of promising writing talent on display.

10. The judges commend all contestants for their efforts and hope that this contest has raised awareness about environmental issues as well as the potential power of essays to change minds and spur action. We warmly congratulate all winners and will continue to support the quest to encourage and reward good writing. We look forward to the next edition of this writing contest.

Thank You.

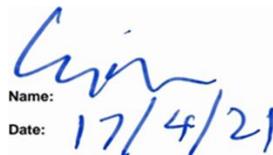
**Confirmed by,**



**Alexandra Wong**

**16 April 2021**

**Confirmed by,**



Name:  
Date: 17/4/21

**Lydia Teh**

**17 April 2021**

**Confirmed by,**



**Terrence Dass**

**19 April 2021**

PERDANA  
LEADERSHIP  
FOUNDATION  
YAYASAN  
KEPIMPINAN  
PERDANA