

A Forum for Achievement!



EPC-2021: a virtual event (ANNUAL ESSAY/PANEL CONTEST)



23 Jan 2021 (Essay Due date: 10-Jan-21)

EPC is a continuation of our efforts to provide Muslim Youth with a skill enhancement platform that gives them the opportunity to develop their writing, speaking and leadership skills. This is a forum for articulation, reflection and advancement. **This is a youth development event that should not be missed!** Be a part of it and experience the difference!

Write, Speak, and Publish!

EPC 2021 THEME:

“ISLAM AS A SPIRITUAL CURE: NAVIGATING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC”

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL (Levels 1 & 2): What are some blessings your family has experienced during the lockdown for the coronavirus pandemic?**

Level 1 (Grades 1&2): Write a letter to your friend, telling them about the blessings your family has had during this pandemic.

Level 2 (Grades 3 & 4): Muslims have faced many challenges in their daily lives due to the coronavirus pandemic, however, many blessings have come from this as well. Name some blessings your family has had in spite of the lockdown and not being able to do all of the normal day-to-day things pre-pandemic.

MIDDLE SCHOOL (Levels 3 & 4): How have you been using your faith and teachings of the Prophet Muhammad (sas) to positively impact your family and community?

The entire world has been struggling with the disruption of the coronavirus, however, for Muslims, our way of life is such that we have ways of coping with this pandemic. Considering the Quran and Sunnah, describe how Muslims have been using their faith to positively impact their communities even when they are facing hardships.

HIGH SCHOOL PLUS (Levels 5 & 6): How should one's mindset be during a global pandemic and how should that translate into productive action?

Some say the coronavirus pandemic is a punishment, some say it is a test. Either way, what should the mindset of a Muslim be during a global event of this scale and how should that translate into productive

action?

*See Instruction page below for the levels in which you will be competing.

****Level 1** writes a letter using a standard business letter format. Please submit your scanned letter.

MULTI-MEDIA PRESENTATION CONTEST (interested participants)

An original and creative presentation of the essay topic to create a short, powerful multi-media presentation (video for example) that leaves the viewer with a ‘bang’!

POSTER CONTEST (interested participants)

Prepare a self-standing poster detailing your essay. The poster should be a mix of art and essay. A jpeg file of high quality is required. Best Posters will be published on the EPC book.

GRAND PRIZE for High School Category

Compete in all 5 segments of EPC contests (essay, speech, poster, multimedia, and panel discussions) and earn a GRAND Prize.

Grand Prize will be awarded to the best overall performing High School participant. Qualifying candidate must participate in at least 4 of the 5 possible competitions (essay, speech, poster, multimedia, and panel discussions).

High School Panel Discussions: Agents of Change #MakeEPCGreatAgain

Do Mafiq sponsored activities feel relevant to you? Is there anything that you can do to improve their effectiveness? Have ideas to share to #MakeEPCGreatAgain?

Join EPC alumni and other competitors in a candid discussion to brainstorm the ideas you really care about. You never know, your ideas could significantly change in the way we do our business.

The interactive session will include activities to get you thinking on your feet, and icebreakers to get to know the other competitors and organizers better.

EPC Instruction Page

Essay and Speech Requirements, & Presentation Time (*Subject to change*):

Grades 1 to 4 (Levels 1 & 2): Elementary School

<u>Group Name</u>	<u>Grade Level</u>	<u>Maximum Words</u>	<u>Speech Time^{^*}</u>
LEVEL 1	1 st & 2 nd	250**	3 mins.
LEVEL 2	3 rd & 4 th	500	4 mins.

Grades 5 to 8 (Levels 3 & 4): Middle School

<u>Group Name</u>	<u>Grade Level</u>	<u>Maximum Words</u>	<u>Speech Time^{^*}</u>
LEVEL 3	5 th and 6 th	750	5 mins.
LEVEL 4	7 th and 8 th	750	6 mins.

Grades 9+: High School/College

<u>Group Name</u>	<u>Grade Level</u>	<u>Maximum Words</u>	<u>Speech Time^{^*}</u>
LEVEL 5	9 th and 10 th	1000	7 mins.
LEVEL 6	11 th thru College	1000	8 mins.

* ONLY the top contestants in the **Written Essay contest** of each level may participate in the Speech Contest.

^ Subject to change

**Please use a standard business letter format. Level 1 handwritten letter should not exceed 3 pages. Must be scanned and submitted [online](#).

EPC Multimedia Contest Requirements

With the minimum time limit 30 seconds and maximum limit to 7 minutes, competitors will need to create a short, powerful video relating to the topic that leaves the viewer with a 'bang'!

Poster Contest Format & Guidelines:

Prepare and display your essay topic on a (32" x 40") self-standing poster. Poster could be a mixture of art and essay. A quality digital image of your poster is required. Submit your digital copy by 15 January 2019 (Visit <http://Epc.Mafiq.org> for submission instruction). Bring your poster for judging at the event day. You will be judged on artistic quality, interpretation of the essay topic, and presentation for the level you are competing. Top three posters in each level will be selected for awards and may get included in the next EPC book, in sha'Allah.

Multi-Media Presentation Contest Format & Guidelines:

Multi-media contest is for the Middle and High school categories only. Elementary level participants will not be graded. Present your topic using multi-media outlets. Submit your digital copy by 10 January 2021 (Visit <http://Epc.Mafiq.org> for submission instruction) or to a **DESIGNATED EMAIL** address to be provided by the judging committee. Bring your media devices and present during the contest. You will be judged on artistic and technical quality, interpretation of the essay topic, and presentation. Use of appropriate Islamic Nasheed/Quranic recitation is encouraged. Multimedia Presentation time must not exceed the level specific speech contest time (see page 2 above).

Introducing BREAKOUT GAMES at EPC 2021!

We know you are going to want to take a breather after the "public speaking jitters" for the EPC Speech Competition. But this year we are going to add a twist.. We will challenge everyone to continue the adrenaline rush...

All Middle schoolers are asked to brush up on the following Islamic topics:

- NAMES OF ALLAH
- SEERAH
- PROPHETS
- QURAN FACTS
- WOMEN IN ISLAM
- ISLAMIC HISTORY

Come prepared for a fun and thrilling game. After the speech competition, Elementary and Middle School

participants will convene in separate rooms for this exciting event (LOCATION will to be posted at the event site.) An audience will be waiting on the edge of their seats. Race to reach the buzzers! Let the games begin...

EPC ESSAY WRITING Guidelines

EPC Encourages and Promotes Capacity building of our YOUTH!

Submission Deadline: Submit your [entries online](#) on or before **10th January**

2021 at <http://epc.mafiq.org/>

Strictly adhere to the following guidelines

- ⦿ **DO NOT write your name or any personal information on the body of the text.** Use Times New Roman, 12 point font; no image is allowed in the text. Submit simple text only.
- ⦿ You must register. Your registration information must include: name, address, phone number, grade level, the school/College you are attending, and the organization (Islamic Center) you are representing.
- ⦿ Email submission (MS WORD Format) is **a MUST**
 - ✓ **DO NOT use multiple entries for the same submission. One essay per submission.**
 - ✓ **On the subject line mention:** EPC 2021, your level , your grade, your last name and first initial, your institution, and the name of the topics (see “sample: [essay submission email](#)”)
 - ✓ **Attach a word document following the directions given above.**
- ⦿ **Scanned submission of letter for Level I only.** Please submit your scanned letter using the jotform provided. Your letter should not exceed 3 pages. DO NOT write your name or personal information on the letter. Follow the registration information.
- ⦿ References must be cited using APA Format (<http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/01/>)
 - for Quran citation use (Sura #: Ayaha #), and for Hadith, use (Source, Hadith #) or APA format
- ⦿ Written statements from the parent/guardian and the author confirming that the work was primarily done by the author (Book publication requires that the work is original and their own.)
- ⦿ EPC contest is a 3-phase event: Writing, speaking, and publishing.
- ⦿ Top contestants in the Written Essay contest of each level will participate in the Speech Contest. Therefore, preparing and rephrasing the essay for the speech is highly encouraged for all participants upon completion of their essay.
- ⦿ Preregistration is required for participation in the annual EPC contest.
- ⦿ All essays, posters, and multimedia submitted for this contest become the property of Mafiq Foundation. Mafiq Foundation reserves the exclusive right to use these materials for publishing, circulating, and promotional purpose.

An honor statement stating the type of help and the level of efforts that you received from your parents, teachers or others on preparing the essay must be included. A sample honor statement is shown below.

EPC 2021 HONOR STATEMENT

Name: _____

Grade: _____

Topic: _____

This essay was researched, organized, and written by me with no help or limited help from my parents or others.

Name of Participant Date

Name of Parent

❖ Top essays and posters may get published in the EPC book, *Young Muslim Voices*, insha'Allah.

The “**FINAL EVENT**,” which includes: the Panel Discussion, if any, Speech Contest, Poster/Multi-Media Contests, and Awards Ceremony, will be held virtually on **23 Jan, 2019**, from 8:30 am to 4:30 pm, in-sha'Allah. All participants, their parents, and relatives are encouraged to attend the **Award Ceremony at 2:30 p**

Organized by: Mafiq Foundation Inc.

Host: Virtual

For [competition rules](#), format, [RUBRICS](#), and more [information](#) on EPC 2019, please visit <http://EPC.Mafiq.org>, or contact the EPC Coordinator by email: essays@Mafiq.org.