

**Ministry of Industry, Commerce, Agriculture and Fisheries
Praedial Larceny Prevention Unit
National Poster and Essay Competition 2017**

Theme: “Praedial Larceny is Everybody’s Business”.

Essay Topic: “Praedial Larceny is Everybody’s Business”. What measures should be taken to combat the theft of agricultural produce in Jamaica? (1600-1800 words)

Award of Prizes: Winners will be announced in the month of January 2018.

Who: All registered secondary school students between the ages of 13-18 years old.

Purpose: The essay competition is designed to give Jamaican youth the opportunity to become more aware of the impact of praedial larceny and to propose solutions to combat the theft of agricultural produce in their respective parishes.

Essay Length: 1600-1800 words typed and double-spaced. (Title, foot notes and bibliography are not included in the final word count).

How to Enter: Entries must be sent to:

Ministry of Industry, Commerce, Agriculture and Fisheries
Praedial Larceny Prevention Unit
Hope Gardens
Kingston 6

Email: plpu@micaf.gov.jm

Phone: 927-1731

Judges: A panel of at least three judges but no more than five will be selected. It will comprise representatives of the National Praedial Larceny Prevention Committee which includes stakeholders from the Jamaica Information Service, Ministry of Justice, Jamaica Constabulary Force, Crime Stop Jamaica and any other judge as decided by the Praedial Larceny Prevention Unit.

Essay Contest Rules

General Rules

1. Each contestant may submit only one essay with a completed application form, signed and stamped by their school.
2. Each essay must reflect the contestant's own research, writing and original thinking.
3. Any quotation or copyrighted material used in the essay must be properly identified. Failure to identify non-original material will result in disqualification.
4. The Ministry of Industry, Commerce, Agriculture and Fisheries will have the right to edit, publish or otherwise duplicate any essay entered into the contest without payment to or permission from the author.
5. Essays must be written in Standard English. Font size is to be 12 point in Times New Roman.

Contest Rules

1. Each entry must begin with a title page containing: topic, number of words, writer's name address, telephone number and the name of the school.
2. Essay must be type-written and double-spaced
3. Essays must contain 1600-1800 words. Every word of the essay is counted. This does not include the title page, bibliography or footnotes identifying non-original material.
4. Each essay page must be numbered starting with first page of the essay, not the title page.
5. The submission of an essay constitutes full and complete acknowledgement and acceptance of these rules. The decision of the Ministry of Industry, Commerce, Agriculture and Fisheries and the National Praedial Larceny Prevention Committee is final.

Judging

A double-blind scoring system will be used to judge essays submitted. This system is designed to make the process of judging easy and impartial as possible.

- Each judge will receive copies of the essays from which the names and schools of the students have been removed.
- The panel of experts selecting the three winners will read and score each submission individually.
- The total points for each of the submission will be added together, and the essay with the highest cumulative points wins.
- Judges will at no time prior to the announcement of winners, discuss the essays or the process of scoring.

The following system will be used to judge the essays:

- **Comprehension** = 0 - 30 points

How well does the essay reflect a thorough comprehension of the issues involved in the essay topic?

- **Organization** = 0 - 25 points

Does the argument follow a logical and easily understood progression? Does corroborating evidence support the essay's main points?

- **Creativity** = 0 – 25 points

Use of diverse resources, including interviews; creative angle on the issue

- **Writing** = 0- 10 points

Correct grammar, spelling, punctuation, concise language

- **Adherence to contest rules** = 0 – 10 points

Compliance to format and length rules

Total = 100 points

Other Terms and Conditions

- Essays will not be returned. They become the property of the Ministry of Industry, Commerce, Agriculture and Fisheries. The Ministry may reprint essay in part or full and use as it deems necessary. Credit will however be given to the author.
- The administration of the contest including determining the eligibility of a participant or essay, standard of essays and awarding of prizes is within the absolute discretion of the Ministry.
- The Ministry assumes no responsibility for loss, delayed or incomplete entries as a result of postal delays or technical malfunctions.