

Elementary: 3rd cycle (200 to 300 words)

Secondary: 1st cycle (300 to 500 words) – 2nd cycle (500 to 700 words)

Essays that have more words than required will not be considered.

Theme:

“Must we always follow the rules, even if we believe they are unfair?”

RULES

Eligibility

This contest is open to schools on the Island of Montreal. Three groups within both the French and English sectors are eligible: students in the 3rd cycle of the elementary level, students in the 1st cycle of the secondary level, and students in the 2nd cycle of the secondary level. One winner will be chosen from each group, subject to fulfilling the selection criteria.

Elementary students must write a **200 to 300 word essay**. Secondary 1st cycle students must write a **300 to 500 word essay** and Secondary 2nd cycle students must write a **500 to 700 word essay**.

The organization committee would like to stress the importance of originality and remind teachers in this regard that examples given in class are sometimes found in several essays by students from the same group.

Selection criteria

The jury will evaluate the essays received according to the following criteria:

- Compliance with the theme and these rules;
- Integration of legal aspects (reference to a right or law, the legal system, etc.);
- **Originality of content;**
- Quality of the writing (spelling, vocabulary and grammar);
- Structure and coherence of the essay;
- Correct number of words; and
- Personal analysis.

How to participate

Essays must be sent **by 5 p.m. on February 2, 2026** to the following address: concours@barreaudemontreal.qc.ca

Participants' essays must be sent in the following order for each student:

- Duly completed registration form;
- Consent of parent or tutor for essays written by students under 14 years of age; and
- Participant's essay.

The Montreal Bar reserves the right to exclude any essay that does not meet the following criteria:

- More words than the number allowed;
- Incomplete registration form;
- Incomplete parental consent;
- Any form of plagiarism; and
- Any essay written in whole or in part using artificial intelligence (see below).

Artificial intelligence (“AI”)

Limited use:

The use of AI is not encouraged but is allowed only to help students explore the theme and concepts discussed in their essays (learning assistance). Students are required to declare their use of AI in this context. For example:

- to generate ideas;
- to explore a topic to better understand it; or
- to check spelling.

It is prohibited to write all or part of an essay using AI. This includes using an AI writing assistant to generate the essay. Students are required to declare their use of AI in this context. Note that some essays may be put through an AI detector. If unsure, the Montreal Bar's Contest Committee may also contact the student's teacher.

Composition of jury and impartiality

The jury is made up of members of the Montreal Bar's Contest Committee.

Confidentiality

- As part of his or her mandate, the jury reader is bound to keep confidential all personal information of which he or she may become aware: it may not be shown or disclosed to anyone outside the Committee.
- The Committee's discussions and recommendations regarding the choice of winners are also confidential.

Conflicts of interest

- If a Committee reader becomes aware of a conflict of interest when evaluating an essay, and in particular if the reader knows the author or members of the author's family, the reader must inform the Committee immediately and withdraw from the evaluation of the essay.
- Before the essays to be evaluated are handed out, the jury reader must also disclose whether he or she knows any members of the staff at any of the participating schools or if he or she or any of his or her children attend or have attended any of the participating schools. If so, the Committee may decide that the jury member will not evaluate essays from the participating school in question, depending on how close the declared relationship is.

Prize

The award ceremony will be held on **Saturday, March 28, 2026** at the Montreal Courthouse as part of the Montreal Bar's Aim for Justice Events.

The winners will read their essays to the audience and will receive an amount \$200 from the Barreau de Montréal as well as a copy of *Antidote+ Familial*, writing assistance software created by Druide informatique. They will also be invited for a guided tour of the Courthouse and for a meeting with a judge.

Conditions for awarding prizes

Once the winners are selected by the Committee jury, minors under 14 years of age must have a separate consent form filled out by the holder of parental authority or their tutor to participate in the award ceremony.

Personal information

The Montreal Bar collects personal information about participants and their teacher through the participation form. The personal information that is gathered will only be used for the purpose of managing the contest. No commercial or other communication unrelated to this contest will be sent to participants or their teacher unless they have given their consent, the whole in accordance with the Montreal Bar's Privacy Policy (<https://www.barreaudemontreal.qc.ca/wp-content/uploads/privacypolicy.pdf>).

Ownership

The participation forms and essays submitted to the Montreal Bar are the property of the Montreal Bar and will not be returned to participants. All participation forms and essays received by the Montreal Bar and all personal information allowing participants in the contest to be identified will be destroyed within three (3) months following the award ceremony.

Conditions for awarding prizes

Once the winners are selected by the jury, minors under 14 years of age must have a separate consent form filled out by the holder of parental authority or their tutor to participate in the award ceremony.

Information:

Telephone: 514 866-9392, extension 235 — Email: concours@barreaudemontreal.qc.ca

**Participation form
Participant under 14 years of age**

ATTENTION: Participants must submit this Participation form along with their essay.

Name of school: _____

Name of teacher: _____

E-mail: _____ Telephone: _____

Theme:

"Must we always follow the rules, even if we believe they are unfair?"

Name of the student: _____

E-mail: _____ Telephone: _____

Number of words: _____

Elementary - 3rd cycle:

☐ 5th

☐ 6th

Secondary - 1st cycle:

☐ Sec. 1

☐ Sec. 2

Secondary - 2nd cycle:

☐ Sec. 3

☐ Sec. 4

☐ Sec. 5

PARENTAL CONSENT

For the purposes of the "Write for Justice" contest, I, the undersigned _____,

holder of parental authority or tutor of _____ ("the child"), consent to the collection by the Barreau de Montréal of the child's personal information in accordance with the rules of the "Write for Justice" and the Privacy Policy of the Barreau de Montréal (<https://www.barreaudemontreal.qc.ca/wp-content/uploads/privacypolicy.pdf>)

Signature: _____ Date : _____

**Participation form
Participant aged 14 and over**

ATTENTION: *Participants must submit this Participation form along with their essay.*

Name of school: _____

Name of teacher: _____

E-mail: _____ Telephone: _____

Theme:

“Must we always follow the rules, even if we believe they are unfair?”

Name of the student: _____

E-mail: _____ Telephone: _____

Number of words: _____

Elementary - 3rd cycle:

☐ 5th

☐ 6th

Secondary - 1st cycle:

☐ Sec. 1

☐ Sec. 2

Secondary - 2nd cycle:

☐ Sec. 3

☐ Sec. 4

☐ Sec. 5