

WAVES 2018 ESSAYS

The World Association for Vedic Education and Studies invites essays from students at 3 levels: Middle School, High School and College Undergraduates. The essay must be prepared using the same format template used for the WAVES2019 Conference Proceedings, attached. Topics and essay length are specified below. If in doubt about eligibility etc, please email the address given below before May 15. Essays must be original, with the work and assistance of others duly referenced and acknowledged, and their words placed in quotes as appropriate. Writers must choose topics in their grade category.

Timeline:

The finished essay must be submitted by 8PM US Eastern Daylight Time (Atlanta time), June 2 by email to 2018WAVES@gmail.com. Attach your essay to an email as both a Word document and a pdf file. In the subject line, please be sure to indicate “**Your LastNameINITIALS: Essay**”. (For example: **KomerathNM: Essay**). The essay must be self-contained with no other attachments. Name the essay files “**YourLastNameINITIALSessay.doc**” and “**YourLastNameINITIALSessay.pdf**”

Level	Topic (choose one from your category)	Length
No higher than 8 th grade	1. <i>“My favorite character from the Puranas and why”</i> . 2. <i>“What Hindus Believe”</i> . A survey of at least 30 (preferably 100) Hindus on their top 10 core beliefs, and the reasons for the beliefs. 3. <i>“What I have learned about Sanatana Dharma, and where”</i> .	4 - 5 pages excluding references. Essays on topic 2 can include a detailed table giving participant responses, taking total length to 7 pages.
High school: 9 th – 12 th grade	4. <i>“What should a student know about Sanatana Dharma?”</i>	5-7 pages excluding references
College undergraduate	5. <i>“The Relevance of Vedic Concepts to Modern Life”</i> 6. <i>“The Philosophy and Science of Dr. Jagadish Chandra Bose”</i>	8--10 pages including references

Evaluation Criteria:

Depth and accuracy of research: 50%. Clarity of writing: 30%. Finished product quality: 20%.

Prizes: TBD. At least one \$500 prize will be awarded. The top essay(s) will be published in the Proceedings of the WAVES2018 Forum. The top authors will be invited to participate and present a poster at WAVES2018, with free conference registration for the author and one accompanying person.

Notes on the topics:

Topic 1: Heroine, Saint, Teacher, Warrior? Who is your favorite character from the Puranas of Hinduism? Why? What aspect of their life and deeds inspire you? What is their modern relevance?

Topic 2: Beliefs can be diverse among practising Hindus. Try to capture the spectrum of beliefs and items of common agreement. The required step is to actually interview at least 30 adults who say that they are Hindus. No “agnostics” etc please. Go for 100!

Topic 3: Home, place of worship, school, movies, libraries or lecturers? Who are the sources of knowledge on Sanatana Dharma for middle-schoolers, and in what setting do they learn?

Topic 4: While over 1 billion people are followers of Sanatana Dharma, the treatment of this most ancient of belief systems in most high school books, is dubious. It is up to Hindus to improve this situation and define what all students should know. Writers should feel free to state their experiences, but should be diplomatic in handling controversies. Do not attack specific individuals without clear proof.

Topic 6: Today there is strong interest in tracking the origins and nature of Life down to subatomic level. In the late 19th century, Jagadish Chandra Bose was the first to measure plant response to stimuli and ascribe those to plants having feelings. He was also a pioneer of radio communications, and of high-frequency power beaming at 60 GHz. Few have explored the *philosophy* of this pioneering scholar.