

Sumy State Pedagogical University named after A. S. Makarenko

International Essay Competition “ACADEMIC INTEGRITY IN EDUCATION: to observe / must not / violate”

Dear Colleagues!

The Center for Scientific and Educational Partnership and Network Cooperation, the Department of Pedagogy of Sumy State Pedagogical University named after A. S. Makarenko (SSPU), in partnership with educational institutions, research organizations, and public educational associations of Ukraine and abroad, invites students of grades 10–11 of general secondary education institutions, learners of professional pre-higher, vocational (vocational-technical), and higher education institutions (Bachelor's, Master's, PhD levels) to take part in the **International Essay Competition “Academic Integrity in Education: to observe / must not / violate.”**

Purpose and objectives of the Competition:

to motivate young people to develop critical and analytical thinking skills and academic writing skills; to foster conscious adherence to the norms and principles of academic integrity; to promote the values of academic ethics in the educational environment.

Submission period: from March 10, 2026, to May 1, 2026 (inclusive).

Terms of participation in the Competition Participants must submit:

1. APPLICATION, completed via [Google-форму](https://forms.gle/CywQMBhesohVYHrU6)

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The **application must include**: essay title; surname, first name, patronymic of the participant; full official name of the educational institution; grade (or year of study); contact phone number and e-mail; information about the supervisor: surname, first name, patronymic; position/category; academic degree/academic title (if available); place of work; phone number and e-mail; consent to publication of the work (yes/no).

2. COMPETITION ESSAY, formatted in accordance with the established requirements.

Awards

Winners will receive diplomas, participants will receive certificates, and academic supervisors of winners and participants will receive letters of appreciation. The best essays will be recommended for publication in the SSPU electronic journal (<https://repository.sspu.edu.ua/home>).

The Regulations on the International Essay Competition are available at: https://sspu.edu.ua/images/2025/docs/polozhennia/polozhennya_pro_konkurs_ese_2d7de.pdf.

ESSAY: NOMINATIONS, FORMATS, CRITERIA, TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS

1. TEXT ESSAY

An original independent work in **Ukrainian or English**, completed personally by the author. Each participant may submit **only one essay**.

Evaluation criteria: **originality** (creative thinking, absence of plagiarism and clichés); **compliance with the genre** (theses, arguments, conclusions); **content quality** (depth of topic coverage and clear presentation of the problem, personal understanding of academic integrity in education and its challenges); **logical structure** (consistency, coherence, integrity, interconnection, aesthetic presentation); **language proficiency** (compliance with the norms of literary language - Ukrainian or English, richness of vocabulary).

Technical requirements: length: **2–3 full A4 pages**; font: **Times New Roman, 14 pt**; line spacing: **1**; margins: **20 mm** on all sides; paragraph indentation: **1.25 cm**; use of angle quotation marks («...»), hyphen (-), and dash (–) is recommended; pages are **not numbered**; list of references (if necessary): **up to 5 sources**, placed at the end of the essay.

Sample of formatting the list of references (DSTU 8302:2015)

1. Hlushchuk A. A Handbook for Developing Literacy. *Dyvoslovo*, 2012, No. 8, pp. 60–62.
2. Omelchuk S. *Being Honest in Education and Science: An Express Course on Academic Integrity for Higher Education Students*: manual. Kherson: OLDI-PLUS, 2021. 80 p.
3. *Fundamental Values of Academic Integrity*. Translated from English. 2019. 37 p.

Available at: <https://cutt.ly/0tvhKFuJ> (accessed January 30, 2026).

File structure: **TITLE** (IN CAPITAL LETTERS; bold type; centered); **essay text** (one line below the TITLE); list of references (if applicable).

Note: the author's full name must not be indicated in the essay file (it is provided only in the registration Google Form).

2. “NON-STANDARD ESSAYS” (CREATIVE FORMAT)

Formats: video essay, podcast, infographic, or comic. Participation is possible individually or as part of creative groups.

Technical requirements and design: video essay / podcast – up to 5 minutes (a link to YouTube, Vimeo, SoundCloud, Google Podcasts, etc.); graphic works (infographic / comic) – high-quality PDF or JPEG. The infographic may be created using graphic design software (e.g., Canva, Adobe Illustrator). Size – A4 or A3 format. A textual explanation should be added if necessary.

Evaluation criteria: creativity of the idea; quality of technical and aesthetic execution; compliance with the topic and format; content richness; strength of argumentation; language accuracy.

IMPORTANT DATES

March 10, 2026 – May 1, 2026 (until 5:00 PM) – submission of competition entries.

May 1, 2026 – May 10, 2026 – jury evaluation period.

May 15–16, 2026 – award ceremony for winners and participants within the framework of the international conference **“Academic Culture of the Researcher in the Educational Space.”**

By May 30, 2026 – recommendation of the electronic collection of essays for publication by the Academic Council of SSPU.

Contacts of the coordinators: Contact details for coordinators: Centre for Scientific and Educational Partnership and Networking (Olena SEMENOG (olenasemenog@gmail.com)), Department of Pedagogy (Maryna BOICHENKO (pedagog@sspu.edu.ua)).

Please, be sure to include “Competition” in the subject line of your email.