

Remote Learning: Tell Us Your Stance Application Guide



Introduction

The Sault Ste. Marie Innovation Centre wants to hear from our youth. In our first “Up for the Challenge” competition, we are asking students at all levels to tell us your stance on remote learning. This application guide will provide you with all the information you need to participate. Good luck!

Challenge Description

The COVID-19 pandemic has prompted the transition to remote learning at all levels of schooling in the Algoma region. Remote learning presents many differences from traditional in-person learning; these differences being viewed as positive or negative changes.

This essay-style challenge gives students the opportunity to pick a position on remote learning – whether they are overall for or against it. Students should formulate their opinion through their personal experience with remote learning over the course of the pandemic, external research to support their position, and are welcome to draw conclusions on how remote learning may affect our students and society over time. Students are also encouraged to suggest innovations that could improve the state of remote learning, and how this would change or strengthen their stance on remote learning.

Prizes

The Sault Ste. Marie Innovation Centre is sponsoring this challenge, awarding prizes to two entries at each level – one for remote learning and one against. The following cash rewards will be awarded.

Elementary School: \$100 to the selected 'For' winner, \$100 to the selected 'Against' winner

Secondary School: \$200 to the selected 'For' winner, \$200 to the selected 'Against' winner

Post-Secondary School: \$400 to the selected 'For' winner, \$400 to the selected 'Against' winner

Total Prize Monies Available: \$1,400

In addition to the available rewards above, all selected winners' entries will be featured on our website, social media accounts, and in our newsletter.

Eligibility

Students enrolled at elementary, secondary, and post-secondary schools in the Algoma region are invited to participate.

How to Enter

Elementary School Level

- Write a letter as if you were addressing your teacher and/or principal explaining whether remote learning is a good thing or a bad thing.
- The letter should be 1-2 pages in length.
- Individual and group submissions are accepted.
- Submit your completed letter to challenge@ssmic.com, where it will be evaluated by the *Up for the Challenge* panel. Please include your name(s), grade, and school in your submission email.

Secondary School Level

- Compose an essay as if you were addressing the members of your school board explaining whether you are for or against remote learning.
- The paper should be no more than 5 pages in length.
- Only individual submissions are accepted.
- Submit your completed paper to challenge@ssmic.com, where it will be evaluated by the *Up for the Challenge* panel. Please include your name, grade, and school in your submission email.

Post-Secondary School Level

- Compose an essay as if you were addressing the Minister of Colleges and Universities and/or Dean of your college/university explaining whether you are for or against remote learning.
- The paper should be no more than 7 pages in length.
- Only individual submissions are accepted.

- Submit your completed paper to challenge@ssmic.com, where it will be evaluated by the Up for the Challenge panel. Please include your name, year/program, and school in your submission email.

Timeline

Challenge Launch: April 7, 2021

Submission Deadline: May 7, 2021

Winners Announced: May 31, 2021

Evaluation Criteria

SSMIC will judge submissions on the following criteria in order to select winners at each level.

- Formatting.
- Analytical thinking, ideas, and concepts.
- How arguments are presented, clearly stating position, and using data as support.
- General flow and logic.
- Creativity, originality, and unique writing style.
- Grammar.
- Page limit.

Questions

Questions about the challenge? Email us at challenge@ssmic.com.