

The 2020 Primary Schools ANZAC Essay Competition

Dear Teacher

Once again in 2020, the Woden Valley RSL Sub-Branch invites **students in Years 5 and 6** to enter the annual ANZAC Essay Competition for ACT primary schools in the Woden and bordering areas. The essays will be judged by a panel comprised of members of the Sub-Branch and a representative of the ACT Education Directorate.

Based on the best three entries, the winning student will be awarded a prize of a plaque, a medallion and \$250.00 and the runners-up will each be awarded a medallion and \$125.00.

The **essay topic** for 2020 is:

“Rest on Arms Reversed”

This is their opportunity to write and submit an **original essay**, of approximately **400 words**, on this year’s topic:



“Rest on Arms Reversed”

This signifies respect and reflection for those who have fallen.

What would this respect and reflection mean to you?

(e.g. the torment of armed conflict, mateship and loss, a more secure future, or peace and rebuilding)

Rest on arms reversed is a military [drill command](#) used as a mark of respect at funerals and on occasions of mourning, especially in the armed forces of [Commonwealth nations](#). Similar scenes appear on many war memorials in cities and towns across Australia and on remembrance occasions in Australia and overseas.



A **catafalque party** is mounted around a coffin as a sign of respect and around memorials on occasions of remembrance such as ANZAC Day. It consists of four members of an armed guard who stand, their heads bowed and their arms (weapon) reversed, facing outward approximately one metre from the coffin or catafalque as a symbolic form of respect for those who have fallen.

For the benefit of all who undertake the task within your school, following is the marking criteria to be applied to the essays.

Marking Criteria

There are **six** criteria which you are requested to address. It is against these criteria that the judging panel will make its decision.

- **Compulsory Criteria:**

The two **compulsory criteria** must be met in an essay. If any compulsory criterion is not met, the essay cannot be awarded a prize.

- An original essay of approximately 400 words.
- The essay must address what 'Rest on Arms Reversed' personally symbolises and means to the author. Rest on Arms Reversed signifies respect and reflection for those who have fallen. What would this respect and reflection mean to you – for example, the torment of armed conflict, mateship and loss, a more secure future, or peace and rebuilding?

- **Subjective Criteria:**

Each essay should address the following to help determine a ranking of the essays.

- Readability.
- Presentation.
- Sentiment (emotion).
- Reference to family experience and/or connection.

Notwithstanding the above, an ineligible essay might be most suitable for inclusion in future editions of 'The Serviceman' publication and teachers are asked to bring any such essays to the attention of the Sub-Branch contact.

*****Date Due: Friday 6 March 2020*****

Email your essay to Mrs. de Salis linda.desalis@cg.catholic.edu.au