

Tips for The Callan Tansey Essay Competition 2019 In Association with The Sligo Champion

Competition adjudicators, Una Mannion and Eoin McNamee, writing mentors from BA Writing and Literature at IT Sligo have issued the following writing tips for entrants of the Callan Tansey Solicitors Essay Competition in Association with The Sligo Champion.

**“All changed, changed utterly:
A terrible beauty is born”.**
**Social Media – deadly
weapon or a platform
for good?**

“The essay is a unique writing form where the personal engages with the public, where we hear the writer’s voice as their own experiences or viewpoints intersect with wider issues that affect us all. The essay endeavours to understand something. The word essay itself derives from the French

word *essayer*, to try, to attempt. Judging the competition this year, we hope to read essays that maintain this spirit of exploration and questioning, that look at the topic from many vantage points and deepen our understanding. In composing the essay we suggest considering the following tips:

- Be original – you don’t want to sound like everyone else
- Be yourself - allow your voice to be heard whether its humorous, serious, ironic, or impassioned
- Be specific – find examples, statistics and details that not only substantiate your argument but illustrate it and bring it to life
- Be a storyteller – while you may be dealing with facts and non-fiction, apply

the techniques of good storytelling: sensory detail, vivid descriptions, engaging narratives and imagery that captures the imagination

- Roam widely in search of sources
- Don’t forget that what happens in your own life, in front of your own nose, is just as interesting as what happens elsewhere
- Be committed to your position, angle, or insight and keep this invisible thread through the essay
- Avoid clichés and be wary of imposing easy morals
- Allow yourself to write courageously. This means turning off internal negative sensors that get in your way.”

- Una Mannion & Eoin McNamee, Competition Adjudicators

Callan Tansey Solicitors ESSAY COMPETITION *In Association With The Sligo Champion*

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Open to all 4th & 5th Year Secondary School Students

Prizes

1st Prize: iPhone 8 along with Apple iPad for his/her school

2nd & 3rd Prizes: Runners-up will each win a Kindle Fire

4th & 5th Prizes: Book voucher sponsored by Liber

Closing Date

Essay (max 1500 words) to be submitted to Callan Tansey, Law Chambers, 3 Wine Street, Sligo or to info@callantanseyle.com by Friday 18th January, 2019

Awards Ceremony

Winners will be announced and prizes presented by Anton Savage, Director of The Communications Clinic and Broadcaster at a Prize giving ceremony at The Hawkswell Theatre, Sligo on Thursday, 31st January, 2019 at 3.30pm. Competition adjudicators for 2019 will be writing mentors Una Mannion and Eoin McNamee from the BA Writing and Literature at IT Sligo.

The Sligo Champion MEDIA PARTNERS



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