

Irish Young Philosophers Award 2022

Report by Mary Roe and Ella Carley



The Irish young philosophers award is a competition open to all students from 5th class to sixth year on the island of Ireland. The competition was set up in 2017 and its aim is to get Ireland's young people thinking about big philosophical questions and analysing these questions in creative and innovative ways.

The awards ask students to pose a philosophical question and then to research and create a project about it. The projects can be entered in a variety of forms but they must be a maximum of 1500 words and no longer than 8 minutes in length.

We were introduced to this competition after we received an email from Ms. Culleton who informed us about this competition and we thought that it would be quite a valuable experience, plus you get a cool prize if you win! So, after enquiring with Ms. Culleton we figured out what would be the best format to explain our questions!

The email sparked our interest and we thought that it would be a good opportunity to take part in. Also, the competition is supported by the president of Ireland- Michael D Higgins who has said he hopes to one day see the competition be as big as the young scientist's award!

All it takes to write on a philosophical question is to pause and question even the smallest thing- something that perhaps we take for granted or overlook during everyday life.

Something that people can relate to and go "oh yeah, why *do* we do that" or "why don't we question these things more" social and moral questions are great and you can even propose a moral dilemma or situation that has occurred with your friends at lunch!!

Once you have an idea of what you would like to write on, all you have to do is to explore it as much as you like, the great thing about philosophy is that you are free to create any view or angle on a subject you like, it can be completely unique to you as this is what gives insight into

other people's minds so that we can understand the world around us more- the aim of philosophy!!!

We have attached both of our entries in this word document for anyone who wishes to read or listen to them. The judges are currently reviewing all of the entries and the winners are going to be announced in May. Regardless of whether or not either of us were successful in the competition we both really enjoyed working on this project and we felt that it was a great way to learn more about philosophy and to challenge our thinking skills.

Mary's Entry

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1HC7-HAS8FVLUbtz2H3_wuS8UdaSxK5G1/view?usp=sharing

Ella's Entry

https://loretowexford-my.sharepoint.com/:w:/p/18ellacarley_student/EXgJLIInmrzhAjWWVDbnyFakBr5Y3HMTILNzKPZHOaNhJVw?e=eabdTv