

Guidelines and FAQs for NFPRC Constitutional Law Essay Competition, September, 2026

I. General Guidelines

- A. All submissions must fall strictly within the scope of the chosen theme. The competition seeks original, analytical, and well-researched contributions to contemporary constitutional jurisprudence.
- B. The maximum permissible similarity threshold is 15%. Submissions exceeding the threshold shall be summarily rejected.
- C. Generative AI tools may only be used for idea exploration, language refinement, or structural planning.
- D. The essay must be original and unpublished. It must not have been previously published, submitted for publication, or submitted to another competition.
- E. Participants are encouraged to develop an independent and clearly articulated argument rather than summarising the existing scholarship.
- F. The decision regarding the selection of winning entries shall be final and binding.

II. Specific Guidelines For Essay

- A. **Authorship & Eligibility:** The Competition is open to law students or recent graduates who seek to engage with contemporary issues in Constitutional Law. Co-authorship is not permitted. Each submission must be authored and submitted by a single participant.
- B. **Word Limits & Format:** The following specifications are recommendatory in nature, except the word limit. Participants are free to adopt a format, style and presentation of their choice, provided the essay remains clear, readable, and suitable for academic submission.
 - 1. **Word Limit:** 1,500 – 2,000 words (excluding footnotes). This is a requirement.
 - 2. **Font Style:** Lora or Times New Roman.
 - 3. **Font Size:** 12
 - 4. **Footnote Size:** 10
 - 5. **Line Spacing:** 1.15 in the main text; 1.0 in footnotes
 - 6. **Alignment:** Justified
 - 7. **File Format:** Microsoft Word (.doc/.docx) or PDF
- C. **Citations:** Any recognised academic style of citation, used consistently across the essay. Participants, however, are encouraged to use SILC (Standard Indian Legal Citation).
- D. **Submission Procedure**
 - 1. The completed essay must be submitted by email to: internships@nfprc.org.

2. The subject line of the email must be: “Constitutional Law Essay_Relevant Month_2026”. For example, for the current edition, it will be “Constitutional Law Essay_September_2026”.
3. The File should be titled as “Participant’s Name_CLE_Month Year”. For example, “John Doe_CLE_September 2026”
4. The submitted essay should ideally contain the following information on the first page:
 - a. Name of the participant,
 - b. Email address,
 - c. Contact number,
 - d. Institution/organisation, if applicable,
 - e. Topic selected.
 - f. An abstract within 100 words
5. Submissions received after the deadline may not be considered.
6. Deadline for submission: 00:00, 01st October, 2026.

E. Incentives & Awards

Details Of Awards And Opportunities To Be Offered By NFPRC	
Position	Opportunities
First Prize	Cash Prize (₹25,000)+ Internship with stipend of ₹30,000 per month
Second Prize	Cash Prize (₹20,000)+ Internship with stipend of ₹30,000 per month
Third Prize	Cash Prize (₹15,000)+ Internship with stipend of ₹30,000 per month
Fourth Prize	Cash Prize (₹10,000)+ Internship with stipend of ₹30,000 per month
Fifth Prize	Cash Prize (₹5,000)+ Internship with stipend of ₹30,000 per month

Table 1: Opportunities offered by NFPRC to top-performers

III. Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

A. What Should be the submission file name ?

The files to be sent should be named as “Participant’s Name_CLE_Month Year”. For example, “John Doe_CLE_September 2026”.

B. How many topics can I write on?

You may submit only one essay on one of the three topics specified for the Competition. Only one submission can be made by each participant.

C. Can I exceed the 2,000-word limit?

Participants are expected to adhere to the prescribed 1,500–2,000 word limit. However, an essay may exceed the prescribed limit in exceptional cases, where the quality and substance of the content warrant consideration. Any such exception shall be determined on a case-to-case basis, at its discretion.

D. Can I give my essay a separate title?

Yes. Participants may give their essay an appropriate title, provided that it clearly relates to the selected Competition topic.

E. Do I have to follow a particular structure?

No fixed structure is prescribed. However, the essay should have a clear introduction, coherent analysis and conclusion, and should develop a reasoned argument on the selected topic.

F. Can I argue a position different from the existing judicial position?

Yes. Participants are encouraged to examine existing judicial or academic positions, provided that their arguments are supported by appropriate legal reasoning and authorities. A reflection or understanding of second order thinking, as well as looking at the interdisciplinary aspects of the selected topic would be considered favourably.

G. Can I use Generative AI?

Limited use for purposes such as proofreading, grammar correction and formatting assistance may be permitted. Substantive legal analysis and arguments should be the participant's own work. Participants should refer to the Competition's AI and originality requirements before submission.

H. What level of similarity is permitted?

A similarity score of 15% or above will attract scrutiny. The final determination will be on a discretionary basis, taking into account the nature and source of the matched content. Similarity arising from cited quotations, standard legal terminology, titles, references or commonly used phrases may not be counted towards plagiarism.

I. What can I do to strengthen my essay and improve its chances of being selected?

A strong essay should go beyond stating the immediate legal issues and demonstrate second-order thinking, including an understanding of the broader consequences and implications of the issue. An interdisciplinary approach that connects the selected constitutional question with relevant social, economic, political, institutional or other perspectives may also be considered favourably.

J. Will failure to follow any preference affect the evaluation of the essay ?

No. Any preferences specified are intended to assist participants. Failure to follow the same will not, by itself , affect the evaluation or final outcome of the Competition.

K. Can I submit an essay that I have already published or submitted elsewhere?

No. The submission must be original and unpublished and must not have been submitted simultaneously to another competition or publication.

L. Where should I submit my essay?

Essays must be emailed to internships@nfprc.org.

M. What should I write in the subject line?

The subject line should be: "Constitutional Law Essay_September_2026."

N. What is the last date for submission?

The deadline is 30th September, 2026.

O. Will every participant receive an internship?

No. The internship opportunity is specifically associated with the top five entries, subject to the applicable policies of NFPRC Foundation.

P. Can I edit my essay after submission?

Participants should submit the final version of their essay. Requests for any modification or replacement after submission will not be entertained.

Q. Whom should I contact for queries?

Queries concerning the Competition may be directed to internships@nfprc.org.