



THE QUEEN'S
COMMONWEALTH ESSAY COMPETITION 2023

Lesson Plan Template

Materials required	
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Laptop, tablet or phone with internet: 1 per classroom or 1 per student2. Commonwealth Factsheets (Appendix A)3. 2022 Winning Entries (Appendix B)4. Pen and paper	
Curriculum links:	English, Creative Writing, Citizenship, Geography
Title:	Entering The Queen's Commonwealth Essay Competition (QCEC) 2023
Eligible Age:	18 years and under
Deadline:	30 th June 2023

Lesson Objectives	
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Develop knowledge of the Commonwealth2. Analyse one's own assumptions, debate issues, and consider other perspectives3. Develop knowledge of, and interest in, creative writing4. Encourage a wider, more empathetic understanding of others' experiences5. Reflect on the qualities of a great leader	

Activity 1: TRUE or FALSE?	
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Ask students to look at the Commonwealth Factsheet (appendix A) and ask them: Did anything surprise you? What do you notice straight away?2. Ask students to close their eyes and point onto the page of Commonwealth nations' flags. Which country did their finger land on?3. Ask students to write down one thing they know or have heard about the country.4. Ask students to stand up in the centre of the room. Label one side of the room "TRUE" and the other side "FALSE".5. Ask one student at a time to stand in front of the group and read out their statement. Ask the rest of the students to choose whether they think the statement is TRUE or FALSE and walk to the labelled side of the room in accordance with their answer.6. Invite students from the group to explain why they chose TRUE or FALSE. Ask a student from the other side of the room to respond to their point in a debate fashion.7. Research the statement in question on the internet and discuss the information you find.8. (If each student has access to a device with internet) After repeating this process a few times with different students' statements, ask all students to research their own statement and feed back on what they discovered.	

Activity 2: Writing your entry

Instructions for students:

1. Look at the QCEC flyer and choose a topic on which you would like to write. Why do youth voices matter? Who is a young person that inspires you?
2. Read through the 2022 winning entries and take note of the different forms of writing they use.
3. Notice that they all have a message they want to share. Consider your unique point of view and what you would like to say about this year's topic.
4. Experiment with conveying your message in three different forms of creative writing, spending around 10 minutes on each genre: choose between a play script, a short story, a letter, a poem, a journalistic piece (including online blog style), or an essay.
5. Which genre did you most enjoy writing? Which one suited your message best? Select your favourite of the three and write a second draft.
6. Continue to edit until you are happy with your final piece.
7. Submit your entry

Appendix A: Commonwealth Factsheets

COMMONWEALTH KEY FACTS

The Commonwealth is a network of 56 countries from all over the world, from the Pacific, Africa, Asia, Europe, the Caribbean and Americas.

The Commonwealth works on **consensus** – so all members are equal and have equal say.

It is founded on 16 shared values and principles:	Democracy Human rights International peace and security Tolerance, respect and understanding Freedom of Expression Separation of Powers Rule of Law Good Governance Sustainable Development Protecting the Environment Access to Health, Education, Food and Shelter Gender Equality Importance of Young People in the Commonwealth Recognition of the Needs of Small States Recognition of the Needs of Vulnerable States The Role of Civil Society
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There are more than 2.5 billion people in the Commonwealth – 60% of which are under 30 years old.

The modern Commonwealth was established 74 years ago.

Commonwealth countries share the English language and have similar legal, education and health systems.

List of Commonwealth Countries

Africa

- Botswana
- Cameroon
- Gabon
- The Gambia
- Ghana
- Kenya
- Kingdom of Eswatini
- Lesotho
- Malawi
- Mauritius
- Mozambique
- Namibia
- Nigeria
- Rwanda
- Seychelles
- Sierra Leone
- South Africa
- Uganda
- United Republic of Tanzania
- Togo
- Zambia

Asia

- Bangladesh
- Brunei Darussalam
- India
- Malaysia
- Maldives
- Pakistan
- Singapore
- Sri Lanka

Pacific

- Australia
- Fiji
- Kiribati
- Nauru
- New Zealand
- Papua New Guinea
- Samoa
- Solomon Islands
- Tonga
- Tuvalu
- Vanuatu

Europe

- Cyprus
- Malta
- United Kingdom

Caribbean and Americas

- Antigua and Barbuda
- The Bahamas
- Barbados
- Belize
- Canada
- Dominica
- Grenada
- Guyana
- Jamaica
- Saint Lucia
- St Kitts and Nevis
- St Vincent and The Grenadines
- Trinidad and Tobago

Commonwealth Nation Flags

Antigua and Barbuda



Australia



The Bahamas



Bangladesh



Barbados



Belize



Botswana



Brunei Darussalam



Cameroon



Canada



Cyprus



Dominica



Eswatini



Fiji



Gabon



The Gambia



Ghana



Grenada



Guyana



India



Jamaica



Kenya



Kiribati



Lesotho



Malawi



Malaysia



Maldives



Malta



Mauritius



Mozambique



Namibia



Nauru



New Zealand



Nigeria



Pakistan



Papua New Guinea



Rwanda



Saint Lucia



Samoa



Seychelles



Sierra Leone



Singapore



Solomon Islands



South Africa



Sri Lanka



St Vincent and
The Grenadines



St Kitts and Nevis



Togo



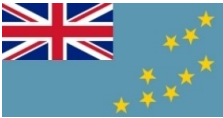
Tonga



Trinidad and
Tobago



Tuvalu



Uganda



United Kingdom



United Republic of
Tanzania



Vanuatu



Zambia

