

Young Reporters for the Environment

Guidance Notes 2025-2026



Young Reporters
for the environment



**Housing
Executive**



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Introduction

The Young Reporters for the Environment (YRE) programme allows young people to become solution-oriented leaders through the YRE Competition, an annual international competition for young people aged 11-25.

The purpose of the competition is to encourage young people to investigate environmental issues, propose solutions, report their findings, and raise awareness by sharing it with an international community.

Eco-Schools NI runs the YRE National Competition here in Northern Ireland. Each year, we recognize our national finalists for each category at the Green Flag Awards ceremonies, and all first place winners' work is submitted to the international competition.



**2026 Deadline:
24th April 2026**

Competition Categories

There are four major categories included in the YRE Competition:

1. Article - News Writing

2. Photo Journalism

- One-Take Photo
- Photo Story
- Staged Campaign Photo

3. Video Journalism

- Long-Form Reporting Video (Documentary)
- Short-Form Campaign Video (Social Media)

4. Podcast Journalism

Once you have chosen a category, please ensure you read through the criteria below before submitting your work. Also note that entrants will be awarded additional points for sharing their work (via personal social media, school network, local media, etc.).

You can also find more information on the [International YRE Website](#).

Article - News Writing

Description

Your article can be in the format of a traditional news article, blog post, or extended social media (i.e. Facebook) post. The writing must be factual and present solutions to a local issue (with clear links to global problems or events).

Inspiration

Check out the work of past international winners here:

<https://www.yre.global/yre-competition24-25>

Check List ✓



- Maximum length of 1,000 words
- Title of maximum 140 characters
- Must include 1-3 photos attached separately in .JPEG or .PNG format, and each photo must have captions (max. 20 words)
- Sources must be cited in MLA format

How to enter the competition

- First register your interest with our [online registration form](#)
- To enter the competition, attach the following items in an email to [**eco-schools@keepnorthernirelandbeautiful.org**](mailto:eco-schools@keepnorthernirelandbeautiful.org)
 - Your article (as a Word or Google document--**not** PDF)
 - 1-3 photos attached to the email as .JPEG or .PNG files
 - Competition Entry Form: [Article Entry Form 2025-26](#)

Photo Journalism - One Take Photo

Description

For this category, you would submit a **single photograph with a title and short description**. The aim is to tell a story through a photograph that truthfully and accurately captures the reality of an environmental situation, event, or issue at one point in time. (The photograph should not be AI generated, posed or manipulated.)

Inspiration

Check out the work of past international winners here:

<https://www.yre.global/yre-competition24-25>

Check List ✓

- Photograph must be submitted in .JPEG or .PNG format
- Must have title of maximum 140 characters
- Must have a description of max. 100 words and a caption of max. 20 words OR only a description of max. 120 words
- The description and caption should explain the environmental link and/or solutions to the issue presented in the photograph
- If any sources used, they must be cited in MLA format

How to enter the competition

- First register your interest with our [online registration form](#)
- To enter the competition, attach the following items in an email to eco-schools@keepnorthernirelandbeautiful.org
 - Your photo attached to the email as .JPEG or .PNG file
 - Competition Entry Form: [One Take Photo 2025-26](#)

Photo Journalism - Staged Campaign Photo

Description

For this category, you would submit a **single photograph with a title and short description**. Rather than a natural photo like one-take photo category, this photo can be staged with the intention of sending a message to viewers. The aim is to raise awareness of an environmental issue and inspire positive action through a photograph. There must be a clear environmental campaign message and call to action included in the image, and it can be edited and include AI alterations.

Inspiration

Check out the work of past international winners here:

<https://www.yre.global/yre-competition24-25>

Check List ✓

- Photograph must be submitted in .JPEG or .PNG format
- Must have title of maximum 140 characters
- Must have a caption of maximum 20 words
- Optional description of max. 100 words
- The description and caption should explain the environmental link and/or solutions to the issue presented in the photograph
- If any sources used, they must be cited in MLA format

How to enter the competition

- First register your interest with our [online registration form](#)
- To enter the competition, attach the following items in an email to eco-schools@keepnorthernirelandbeautiful.org
 - Your photo attached to the email as .JPEG or .PNG file
 - Competition Entry Form: [Staged Campaign Photo 2025-26](#)

Photo Journalism - Photo Story (3-5 Photos)

Description

For this category, you would submit **3-5 photograph with a title and short description**. The aim is to tell a story through a series of photographs to help the viewer better understand environmental issues or events. All photos must be original, aiming to tell a truthful and accurate story through a series of candid photographs, i.e. not be posed or manipulated.

Inspiration

Check out the work of past international winners here:

<https://www.yre.global/yre-competition24-25>

Check List ✓



- Photographs must be submitted in .JPEG or .PNG format
- Must have title of maximum 140 characters
- Must have description of max. 100 words
- Each photograph must have a caption of no more than 20 words.
- The description and caption should explain the environmental link and/or solutions to the issue presented in the photograph
- If any sources used, they must be cited in MLA format

How to enter the competition

- First register your interest with our [online registration form](#)
- To enter the competition, attach the following items in an email to eco-schools@keepnorthernirelandbeautiful.org
 - Your photos attached to the email as .JPEG or .PNG files
 - Competition Entry Form: [Photo Story 2025-26](#)

Video Journalism - Long-Form Reporting Video

Description

Long-form reporting videos are like mini documentaries, TV news reports. They are based on news, events, history, facts etc., and use elements of direct observation, research, interviews, and documentation. It should have an introduction and conclusion and use a documentary or reporter style to answer the questions of who, what, where, when, why, and how.

Inspiration

Check out the work of past international winners here:

<https://www.yre.global/yre-competition24-25>

Check List ✓

- Video must be no longer than 3 minutes
- Must be filmed in **landscape**
- Must have title of maximum 140 characters
- Must be submitted in a file format supported on Youtube
- If any sources used, they must be cited in MLA format



How to enter the competition

- First register your interest with our [online registration form](#)
- To enter the competition, attach the following items in an email to eco-schools@keepnorthernirelandbeautiful.org
 - Your final video in a file format supported by Youtube (online services like [Dropbox](#) or [WeTransfer](#) are useful for sharing video files.)
 - Competition Entry Form - [Long Form Reporting Video 2025-26](#)

Video Journalism - Short-Form Campaign Video

Description

Short-Form Campaign videos can take format as Instagram Reels, Tik-Tok videos, Youtube Shorts. The aim is to raise awareness of an issue, promote certain values, and/or inspire positive action through the short video. The campaign storyline can be staged with the intention of sending a clear message to the viewers.

Inspiration

Check out the work of past international winners here:

<https://www.yre.global/yre-competition24-25>

Check List ✓

- Video must be no longer than 1 minute
- Must be filmed in **portrait**
- Must include a clear call to action for the audience
- Must have title of maximum 140 characters
- Must be submitted in a file format supported on Youtube
- If any sources used, they must be cited in MLA format



How to enter the competition

- First register your interest with our [online registration form](#)
- To enter the competition, attach the following items in an email to eco-schools@keepnorthernirelandbeautiful.org
 - Your final video in a file format supported by Youtube (online services like [Dropbox](#) or [WeTransfer](#) are useful for sharing video files.)
 - Competition Entry Form- [Short Form Reporting Video 2025-26](#)

Podcast Journalism

Description

Podcasts are like mini documentaries and could take the form of audio or audio/ video. They are based on news, events, history, facts etc., and use elements of direct observation, research, interviews, and documentation. Podcasts can take the form of a narrative, interview(s), multi-host discussion, or single host storyteller.

Inspiration

Check out the work of past international winners here:

<https://www.yre.global/yre-competition24-25>

Check List ✓



- An audio file or link to the full podcast
- Must have title of maximum 140 characters
- If longer than 5 minutes, a 5 minute segment (timestamps) should be selected to be considered for the competition
- If any sources used, they must be cited and included in the entry (can be in the body of an email or in a document)

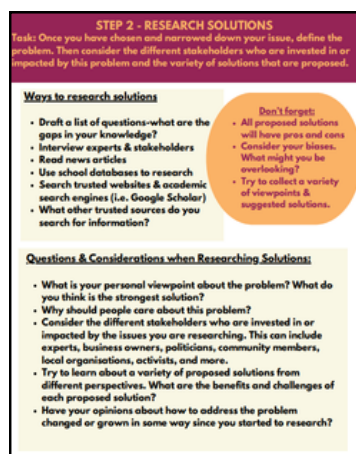
How to enter the competition

- First register your interest with our [online registration form](#)
- To enter the competition, attach the following items in an email to eco-schools@keepnorthernirelandbeautiful.org
 - Your final audio or audiovisual file (services like [Dropbox](#) or [WeTransfer](#) are useful for sending these types of files)
 - Competition Entry Form - [Podcast 2025-26](#)

Additional Support

Join one of our support clinics to learn more and ask any questions you may have. Find links to register on our [interactive calendar](#).

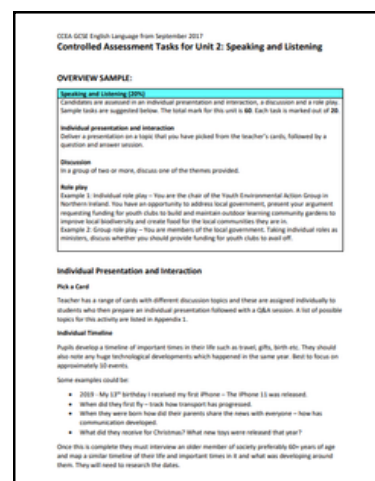
We work continuously to create activities and resources to help you to get started. You can browse through some examples below and find an updated list on [our website](#).



YRE Interview
Activity & Prompts



Take a Good Photo
Guide Poster



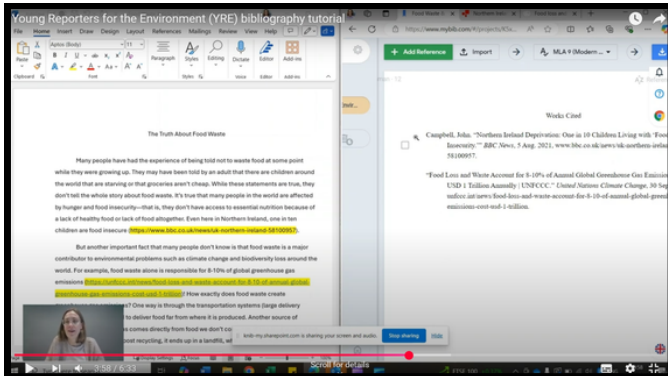
CCEA GCSE English
Language from Sep
2017, Controlled
Assessment Task for
Unit 2: Speaking and
Listening

Click each
image to access
the resource



**2026 Deadline:
24th April 2026**

Additional Support



MLA Citing Sources Tutorial



YRE Photography Lesson Presentation

Click each
image to access
the resource



YRE Educator Presentation
(2024-2025 Competition)



YRE Competition
Promotional Poster
(2024-2025)



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