

# Science Writing

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*Budding journalists and science writers, here is your chance to inspire, impress and inform your readers.*

## 2025 Science Writing titles:

- DNA: Nature's Secret Code
- Exploring the Ocean's Depths: Unseen Worlds Beneath the Waves
- Nature's Secret Languages: How Plants and Animals Communicate
- The Future of Space Exploration: Safeguarding Life Beyond Earth
- AI: Nature's New Ally in Conservation
- Conservation and Rewilding
- Energy Innovations
- The Science of Food Preservation
- Sports Technology
- Science as a Human Endeavour (YEAR 11–12 LEVEL ONLY)

Check out the website for more details on these topics.

## A successful SASTA Oliphant Science Awards Science Writing entry:

- Is well researched and has accurate science content.
- Will communicate ideas clearly.
- Will be original, innovative and your own work.
- Will have accurate punctuation and spelling.
- Will have a References section that acknowledges all sources of information (for students in Years 7–8, 9–10 and 11–12, this will include in-text referencing).

## Rules for Science Writing Entries:

- You must write on one of the titles listed above. Please ensure the title is clearly identified on your entry.
- The Science Writing entry must be the work of one person (no group entries).
- You must include a reference list that contains all the sources of information that you used. This includes all books, websites, magazines, and any people you have interviewed.
- Appropriate "in-text" referencing is expected for students in Years 7–8, 9–10 and 11–12.
- If you quote directly from a source, you must use quotation marks and include a reference to the source of the quote.
- **AI Tools are not permitted for any aspect of science writing.**

- Science Writing can be in a number of different genres:
  - Recount
  - Narrative
  - Explanation
  - Discussion
  - Response
  - Information Report
  - Procedure
  - Persuasion/Exposition
  - Description
  - Comic (graphic writing)
  - Infographic



- You may include pictures and graphic illustrations. However, if illustrations or pictures are copied you must include a reference next to the illustration or picture.
- Write or word-process your entry yourself. If there are special reasons for using help in typing or editing, then this help must be acknowledged after your reference list.
- The length of your Science Writing entry depends on your year level:
  - Year R–2: do not exceed 200 words;
  - Year 3–4 and 5–6: do not exceed 800 words;
  - Year 7–8, 9–10, 11–12: do not exceed 1500 words.
- **A word count must be included on your entry** (please note: titles, labels and referencing are not included in the word count). *There can be up to 10% tolerance of the word limit*

## In presenting your Science Writing entry (online submission ONLY):

The following documents will need to be uploaded for your project:

- Cover sheet with your Student ID details (your Coordinator will give you this)
- Electronic copy of your science writing entry.
- Entries will be accepted as PDF or Word documents only. We cannot guarantee judges will be able to access any other file types.

For full details on electronic submission, see: <https://bit.ly/OSAOnlineSubmission>

## Key Dates:

- **Friday 6 June - 29 June:** entry submitted online