

DREAM ESSAY – WRITING GUIDE

Bahamian Dream Challenge | Student Toolkit

What It Is

A written vision in your own voice. Essays should be between 300 and 1,500 words total, with limits based on age division.

[Suggested word-count tiers – confirm against the official contest rules before printing or submitting:](#)

- Dreamers (ages 10–12): 300–600 words
- Visionaries (ages 13–15): 500–900 words
- Builders (ages 16–18): 700–1,200 words
- Future Leaders (ages 19–25): 900–1,500 words

Before You Write

- Revisit your brainstorming worksheet answers.
- Pick one specific moment, place, or person – not an abstract idea – to anchor the essay.
- Decide the one thing you want the reader to feel by the end.

Suggested Structure

- Opening hook: Begin with a specific image, moment, or question – not a general statement.
- The dream: Explain what the Bahamian Dream means to you, in your own words.
- The build: Explain what you are prepared to do about it, concretely.
- Closing: Return to your opening image or moment, changed by what you now know.

Voice Tips

- Write like you talk. Avoid words you would not actually say out loud.
- Use specific, local details – a street, a school, a neighbourhood, or a family island – instead of general statements.
- Avoid clichés such as "the sky's the limit" or "anything is possible." Judges read these often, so original language will stand out more.

What Judges Look For

- Common score (70%): authentic voice, clear vision, Bahamian relevance, and personal commitment.
- Track score (30%): writing and reasoning.

Before You Submit

- Confirm that your word count fits your division's range.
- Read the essay out loud once. Does it sound like you?
- If you are under 18, make sure guardian consent is complete.
- Make sure the name, image, and likeness waiver is signed.
- Disclose any use of AI assistance, if applicable.

Final check: The strongest essays sound like a real person with a real point of view. Be specific, be personal, and make clear what part you are willing to play in building the Bahamian Dream.