



**University of Newcastle Law Students'
Association**

2021 Paper Presentation Competition

COMPETITION HANDBOOK

2021 Paper Presentation Competition

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Why Should You Enter?

The UNLSA holds a Paper Presentation competition to complement your legal education, increase your engagement with the Law School, and to find the best students to represent the University of Newcastle at a national level.

Paper Presentation allows students to research a legal topic of their choosing, undertake requisite research, write an essay and present their topic to a panel of judges. This competition is more suited to senior students with a passion for jurisprudence. Nevertheless, everyone is encouraged to enter.

Previous topics include: Compromised Immunities: Clarity, Confusion and Potential Reform; 'To the Heavens Above' (Conrad James): An examination of existing and proposed property rights in the extra-terrestrial (Alexander Connolly); and The Australian Republic Debate: Still Relevant Today? (Harrison Thomas).

Contacts

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Vice President (Competitions)	Charu Lamichhane competitions@unlsa.com 0401101623



Photos from the 2019 Paper Presentation Competition

Rules

1. Purpose of the Competition

The University of Newcastle Law Students' Association (**UNLSA**) has established a Competitions Portfolio to provide as many students as possible with the opportunity to gain valuable practical skills by competing in Educational Competitions and further the UNLSA's interests. The UNLSA and the Directors of Competitions (Skills) will at all times endeavour to uphold this purpose by promoting involvement, sportsmanship and excellence in educational competitions.

It is the UNLSA's position that where the implementation of any rule or procedure would be inconsistent with the overarching purpose outlined in this Rule 1, that rule or procedure should not be implemented. Any course of action may be determined by the Directors of Competitions (Skills) in order to uphold the purpose of the Competition.

2. Competition Structure

At the time of this publishing, Paper Presentation oral presentations will be run in-person. However, the UNLSA reserves the right to modify the competition format dependent on ongoing advice and restrictions imposed by NSW Health, NSW Government, University of Newcastle and any other key stakeholders.

2.1. Notification of Winners

2.1.1. The winner of the grand final will be announced immediately after the grand final takes place on Friday 8 October 2021.

3. Competitors

3.1. Each team will consist of one person.

3.2. The competitor must be a member of the UNLSA.

3.3. The competitor must register by the registration date as set out by the Directors of Competitions (Skills). The Directors of Competitions (Skills) may apply penalties for late registration at their discretion.

4. Paper Specifications

4.1. The subject for the paper (and oral presentation) is to be determined by the competitor.

4.2. The paper is to be no longer than 5000 words (maximum word limit).

4.3. The paper is to be no shorter than 3000 words (minimum word limit).

4.4. Basic footnotes, bibliography, titles, subtitles and contents pages will not be considered part of the word limit as outlined in 4.2 and 4.3.

4.5. Explanatory footnotes are permitted, but must be included in the word limit.

4.6. The paper should conform to the Competition's designated Style Guide, the *Australian Guide to Legal Citation 4* (available online at <https://goo.gl/qBeXSM>).

- 4.7. No part of the written paper should disclose the name of the competitor. Failure to strictly adhere to this rule, even inadvertently, will result in penalties.
- 4.8. Competitors must provide the Directors with
 - 4.8.1. A copy of their paper in electronic form sent by email, in Microsoft Word format (.doc), Rich Text Format (.rtf) or Adobe Portable Document Format (.pdf) emailed to skills@unlsa.com; by Monday 30 August 2020 at 11:59pm.
 - 4.8.2. A declaration that the length of the paper is between 3000 and 5000 words
 - 4.8.3. Three bound physical copies of their paper
- 4.9. Competitors must provide the items specified in 4.8.1 (electronic copies) by 11:59pm on the due date.
- 4.10. Competitors must provide the items specified in 4.8.3 and 4.8.2 (physical copies and declaration) one week after date of submission to the Director of Skills.
- 4.11. Each competitor may submit only one (1) paper.

5. Oral Presentations

- 5.1. All substantive research and preparation for the oral component must be conducted solely by the competitor. Competitors may receive assistance and advice with their presentation skills and style (see 6.6.2.2).
- 5.2. The presentation is divided into two parts:
 - 5.2.1. First, the Competitor will present their paper without interruption for up to fifteen (15) minutes. A competitor must stop speaking when asked to do so by the Judge. A warning will be given at the following intervals:
 - 5.2.1.1. Ten (10) minutes after commencing;
 - 5.2.1.2. Thirteen (13) minutes after commencing;
 - 5.2.1.3. Fifteen (15) minutes after commencing.
 - 5.2.2. Second, the judging panel will question the competitor on their oral presentation for up to ten (10) minutes. Questions from spectators will not be permitted.
- 5.3. The competitor's paper must form the substantive basis for the presentation.
- 5.4. The following equipment is available for use by the competitor in the presentation:
 - 5.4.1. A lectern;
 - 5.4.2. A whiteboard; and
 - 5.4.3. A projector connected to computer equipment for power-point presentations.
- 5.5. The equipment, at a time set at the discretion of the Directors of Competitions (Skills), is to be available to the competitor prior to the competition for the purpose of familiarisation.
- 5.6. No other equipment will be permissible unless a special request is made in writing to (skills@unlsa.com), and is approved by the Directors of Competitions (Skills) in consultation with those outlined in 8.1 no later than five (5) days prior to the commencement of competition.
- 5.7. The competitor is responsible for arranging their preferred set up for the equipment and will be given an opportunity to do so before being introduced by the Directors of Competitions (Skills).
- 5.8. For the purpose of this competition, competitors may assume that the judging panel will be composed of "legally literate people with a non-expert interest in the paper".

6. Judging

- 6.1. Each written paper round will be observed and evaluated by a single judge.
- 6.2. Each oral presentation round will be observed and evaluated by a panel of three judges.
- 6.3. Judges will be legal practitioners, professionals, suitable senior students, or Newcastle Law School staff.
 - 6.3.1. Where a senior student is serving as a judge, s/he may not judge a team from her/his year.
- 6.4. Judges have access to the essay submitted by the competitor.
- 6.5. The judge(s) will evaluate the performance of the participants according to the criteria provided.

6.6. Judging Standards

- 6.6.1. The judging standards that there is no one “correct” approach to writing and orally presenting in a Paper Presentation.
- 6.6.2. Each judge or panel of judges ranks the competitor whom they observe according to their effectiveness both in writing and orally. To assist the process of ranking, judges also score each team against the following standards:

6.6.2.1. *Written Paper*

- 6.6.2.1.1. challenging or difficult subject of interest or importance
- 6.6.2.1.2. clear definition and logical structure of ideas
- 6.6.2.1.3. analysis defines and engages with a sound conceptual, analytical and theoretical framework
- 6.6.2.1.4. argument is focused and well-developed throughout
- 6.6.2.1.5. independent, original and insightful treatment of all aspects of topic
- 6.6.2.1.6. identifies and engages with all relevant aspects of topic and includes appropriate comparative references and insight
- 6.6.2.1.7. critical evaluation of primary and secondary sources
- 6.6.2.1.8. argument is reasoned, persuasive and supported by appropriate evidence
- 6.6.2.1.9. expression, style and presentation are excellent
- 6.6.2.1.10. consistent referencing, adhering to the Australian Guide to Legal Citation 4
- 6.6.2.1.11. correct grammar, spelling and punctuation throughout

6.6.2.2. *Oral Presentation*

- 6.6.2.2.1. clear, concise, confident, articulate, elegant expression
- 6.6.2.2.2. clear structure and organisation, logical progression and flow
- 6.6.2.2.3. communicates ideas naturally and easily
- 6.6.2.2.4. excellent variation in tone, pace and volume
- 6.6.2.2.5. effective and intelligent use of visual aids
- 6.6.2.2.6. appropriate use of stance, expression, gesture and humour
- 6.6.2.2.7. engages with audience through excellent manner and style of presentation
- 6.6.2.2.8. conveys sincerity and enthusiasm, stimulating the audience’s interest

- 6.6.2.2.9. mastery of subject matter
- 6.6.2.2.10. insightful appreciation of legal and policy aspects
- 6.6.2.2.11. detailed understanding of issues and scholarship
- 6.6.2.2.12. direct and focused response to questions

7. Appeal Process

7.1. A two-stage appeals process exists for decisions made in relation to the Competition.

7.2. The first stage (Stage One) of appeal must be made to the Vice President (Competitions). Should a second stage (Stage Two) of appeal be commenced then the appeal will be reviewed by the Competition Appeals Board.

7.3. Appeals should only be made where the issue has first been raised with the Director(s) of Competitions (Skills).

7.4. Appeals may only be made where they relate to matters other than the decisions of competition judges on the basis of merit. Decisions of judges may not be appealed.

7.5. The Competition Appeals Board will consist of two academic members of Law School Staff and the UNLSA President, or his/her nominee. Where possible, the academic members of the Competition Appeals Board will be the coordinators of the Competitive Mooting directed course or have an academic interest in competitions.

7.6. Decisions made by the Competition Appeals Board are final and may not be appealed.

7.7. The Procedure of Appeals:

7.7.1. When wishing to appeal, the competitor(s) will notify the Director(s) of Competitions (Skills) by email within six hours of the issue arising. The notification should contain the following:

- 7.7.1.1. Identification of the competition (name, date, time, and parties);
- 7.7.1.2. Grounds of appeal or grievance or complaint;
- 7.7.1.3. Arguments supporting the need for review or resolution; and
- 7.7.1.4. Suggested outcomes.

7.7.2. The Director(s) of Competitions (Skills) will then notify the Vice President (Competitions). The Vice President (Competitions) has the power to:

- 7.7.2.1. Grant the appeal;
- 7.7.2.2. Dismiss the appeal; or
- 7.7.2.3. Direct the appeal to the Competitions Appeals Board.

7.7.3. The Vice President (Competitions) must inform the person or team appealing of the outcome of the appeal by email.

7.7.4. Following a decision being handed down by the Vice President (Competitions), the person or member of the appealing team who lodges the original appeal may further appeal to the Competition Appeals Board within 24 hours of the Vice President (Competitions)' decision being handed down.

7.7.5. They are to email their Stage Two appeal to the Vice President (Competitions) along with a notification written by that person containing the following:

- 7.7.5.1. Justification for a review of the decision on grounds other than merit; and
- 7.7.5.2. Suggested outcomes.

7.7.6. The appeal will then be forwarded to an academic staff member of the Competition Appeals Board who will determine its appropriateness for review by the full Competition Appeals Board.

7.7.7. In determining the appeal, the Competition Appeals Board will consult the Director(s) of Competitions (Skills). The Competition Appeals Board may also consult any or all members of the UNLSA Executive, or any other person(s) deemed necessary.

- 7.7.7.1. Any member of the UNLSA Executive who is also a competitor should not be consulted by the Competitions Appeals Board during the appeals process.
- 7.7.8. The Competitions Appeals Board will notify the Director(s) of Competitions (Skills) of their decision, who will then notify the competitor(s).

8. Competitions Blacklist

- 8.1. The Competitions Blacklist (found in UNLSA By-Law 47) will be enforced throughout the competition. By-Law 47 has been reproduced below.

47. Competitions Blacklist

1. The Vice President (Competitions) is to create and maintain a Competitions Blacklist.
2. Any member added to the Competitions Blacklist will not be permitted to:
 - a. compete in any internal competition;
 - b. be selected for an external competition; and
 - c. receive a subsidy from the Association to attend an external competition.
3. The Competitions Blacklist must provide blacklisted member's:
 - a. name;
 - b. student number;
 - c. date blacklisted;
 - d. period of blacklisting; and
 - e. reason(s) for blacklisting.
4. The Vice President (Competitions) may add a member to the Competitions Blacklist where that member:
 - a. withdraws from an internal competition outside of the dates prescribed by the relevant competition directors;
 - b. is disqualified from an internal competition; or
 - c. refuses or fails to attend preparations for an external competition that they have been selected for; and
 - d. fails to provide a reasonable excuse for doing so.
5. If the Vice President (Competitions) adds a member to the Competitions Blacklist, they must provide that member with written notice within reasonable time of doing so, which details:
 - a. the effect of blacklisting;
 - b. the reasons for adding them to the Competitions Blacklist;
 - c. the duration that they have been blacklisted for;
 - d. the date that the blacklisting will expire; and
 - e. how they may appeal the decision.
6. A member who is added to the Competitions Blacklist may appeal the decision within seven days of receipt of written notice of their suspension by sending written

notice to the Vice President (Administration).

a. Such notice should detail the reasons why the member believes that the blacklisting or duration of the blacklisting is inappropriate.

7. Within reasonable time following receipt of a written notice to appeal, the Vice President (Administration) is to notify the Executive of the appeal who may:

a. dismiss the appeal if it is vexatious or without merit; or

b. convene a Committee Meeting within the next 28 days where the Committee will decide the appeal.

i. If the Committee is to decide the appeal, the Vice President (Administration) is to provide the relevant member of written notice of that decision, and invite them to that Committee Meeting.

8. At a Committee Meeting where a Competitions Blacklisting Appeal is to be decided:

a. The Vice President (Competitions) is to provide a short explanation of the reasons for the Blacklisting;

b. The relevant Member is to provide a short explanation as to the reasons for their appeal; and

c. The Committee, after hearing those reasons, is to vote by show hands, either in favour of or against the appeal.

9. The Committee's decision in a Competitions Blacklisting Appeal is final.

9. Miscellaneous

9.1. In the event that an issue arises that is not covered by the rules of the Competition, the Directors of Competitions (Skills) may consult:

9.1.1. The UNLSA Executive;

9.1.2. The UNLSA Committee;

9.1.3. Newcastle Law School Staff;

9.1.4. ALSA rules and ALSA

9.1.5. Any other university competition director(s); or

9.1.6. Any other person(s) they deem necessary.

Appendix

Written Paper Cover Sheet



UNIVERSITY OF NEWCASTLE
Law Students' Association

2021 UNLSA Paper Presentation Competition

WRITTEN PAPER COVER SHEET

Name

Email

Phone

Title of Document

Word Count

Declaration:

1. I have complied with the UNLSA Paper Presentation Rules.
2. I have complied with the Australian Guide to Legal Citation 4.
3. I have not put any identifying marks (e.g. name, student ID number, FAN) on any copy of my paper, so they can be marked anonymously.
4. This paper is solely the product of my own original work except where acknowledged as coming from another person or source.
5. I understand that any breach of the Paper Presentation Rules, including providing misleading information on this cover sheet, will result in penalties applying, up to and including removal from the competition.

Signature

Date

Marking Guide



UNIVERSITY OF NEWCASTLE
Law Students' Association

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Marking Guide

Date	Time	Room
Topic		
Competitor		
Judge		

TOTAL SCORE
 (Written + Oral)

/100

Please mark all criteria and remember the emphasis is on the *difference in points*. A draw is not possible. Do not announce the scores or results. Please return the score sheets directly to the Directors of Competitions (Skills).

WRITTEN PAPER

Factors:

- challenging or difficult subject of interest or importance
- clear definition and logical structure of ideas
- analysis defines and engages with a sound conceptual, analytical and theoretical framework
- argument is focussed and well-developed throughout
- independent, original and insightful treatment of all aspects of topic
- identifies and engages with all relevant aspects of topic and includes appropriate comparative references and insight
- critical evaluation of primary and secondary sources
- argument is reasoned, persuasive and supported by appropriate evidence
- expression, style and presentation are excellent
- consistent referencing, adhering to the Australian Guide to Legal Citation 4
- correct grammar, spelling and punctuation throughout

Written Score

/40

Comments:

ORAL PRESENTATION

Factors:

- clear, concise, confident, articulate, elegant expression
- clear structure and organisation, logical progression and flow
- communicates ideas naturally and easily
- excellent variation in tone, pace and volume
- effective and intelligent use of visual aids
- appropriate use of stance, expression, gesture and humour
- engages with audience through excellent manner and style of presentation
- conveys sincerity and enthusiasm, stimulating the audience's interest
- mastery of subject matter
- insightful appreciation of legal and policy aspects
- detailed understanding of issues and scholarship
- direct and focused response to questions

Oral
Score

/60

Comments: