



**IV INTERNATIONAL CONTEST IN FILM-BASED ESSAY WRITING:**  
**“WATCH REFLECTIVELY, RESEARCH VIRTUOUSLY, THINK CRITICALLY,**  
**WRITE CREATIVELY!”**  
**for senior school students and university junior students**

- Sumy State Pedagogical University named after A.S. Makarenko, Ukraine**  
 (Department of English Philology and Linguodidactics,  
 Inter-University Research Laboratory of Modern Technologies of Teaching Foreign Languages and  
 Cultures)
- Regional English Language Office, US Embassy Ukraine**  
**Childhood Education International (Center for Professional Learning) Washington DC, USA**  
**TESOL-Ukraine**  
**Bowling Green State University, USA**  
**University of Arizona, USA**  
**Konstantin Preslavsky University of Shumen, Bulgaria**  
**Alecu Russo State University of Bălți, Moldova**  
**Eötvös Loránd University, Budapest, Hungary**  
**TESOL Türkiye, Turkey**  
**Kyiv National Linguistic University, Ukraine**  
 (Department of Pedagogy and Methods of Teaching Foreign Languages)  
**Hryhorii Skovoroda University in Pereiaslav, Ukraine**  
 (Foreign Philology, Translation and Teaching Methods Department)  
**Pavlo Tychyna Uman State Pedagogical University, Ukraine**  
 (Faculty of Foreign Languages)  
**Ternopil Volodymyr Hnatiuk National Pedagogical University, Ukraine**  
 (Department of English Philology and Methods of Teaching English)  
**Berdiansk State Pedagogical University, Ukraine**  
 (Faculty of Philology and Social Communications)  
**H.S. Skovoroda Kharkiv National Pedagogical University, Ukraine**  
 (Department of English Philology)  
**National University “Yuri Kondratyuk Poltava Polytechnic”, Ukraine**  
 (Department of General Linguistics and Foreign Languages)  
**Zhytomyr Ivan Franko State University, Ukraine**  
 Department of Intercultural Communication and Foreign Language Education  
**T.H. Shevchenko National University “Chernihiv Colehium”, Ukraine**  
 (Department of Foreign Languages, Foreign Philology and Educational Technologies Department)  
**Vinnitsia Technical Lyceum, Ukraine**  
**Machine building professional college of Sumy State University, Ukraine**  
**Sumy Regional Academic Lyceum named after Dmytro Yevdokymov, Ukraine**  
**Sumy Classical Gymnasium, Ukraine**  
**Sumy lyceum #33, Ukraine**  
**Sumy Specialized School of I-III Degrees No. 25**  
**Ternopil School No. 29 Specialized in Foreign Languages, Ukraine**  
**Scientific Lyceum No. 3 of the Poltava City Council, Ukraine**  
**Chernihiv Regional Scientific Lyceum, Ukraine**  
**Scientific Lyceum Zhytomyr at Ivan Franko State University, Ukraine**

**Year 2026 Problem Area: The Role of Critical Thinking, Willful Ignorance, and Reluctance to Sacrifice in Confronting Global Crises**

**Year 2026 Film-Club Base: “Don’t Look Up!”.**

**The Suggested Essay Topic:**

**“Overcoming Global Crises: The Need for Critical Thinking and the Dangers of Ignorance and Inaction”.**

*Creative competition in English critical writing*

*on exploring the human factors in global crisis response: critical thinking, wilful ignorance, and the challenge of collective sacrifice.*

**Dear friends! We invite you to participate in this contest and showcase your critical thinking, research skills and creativity, your commitment to truth and rational inquiry, to inspire others with your words, and to leave your own unique signature on the crucial conversation about how we respond to global threats!**

**Why do we know what must be done yet fail to act? What role does critical thinking play in cutting through the noise of misinformation? How does the deliberate choice to avoid uncomfortable truths paralyze our response to existential threats? Why are we so reluctant to make the personal and collective sacrifices necessary to address climate change, inequality, and other global crises? Your exploration of these questions could illuminate the psychological, social, and ethical barriers that stand between humanity and meaningful action, and perhaps reveal pathways toward a more courageous and responsible future.**

**Join our Film Club and take part in our Contest to think about it together!**

**EVENT DETAILS.**

**The aims of the Contest are:**

1. Encouraging critical thinking, reflection, creativity and imagination. The contest aims to inspire participants to watch reflectively think critically and write creatively, to use their intellect and imagination to model bringing advanced social and scientific concepts to life through the medium of creative writing.
2. Fostering critical awareness of global challenges. The contest aims to promote critical thinking and honest self-examination by encouraging participants to explore why humanity struggles to confront existential crises despite available knowledge. Through creative writing, participants will examine the psychological, social, and ethical barriers that prevent meaningful action on climate change, inequality, pandemics, and other urgent threats.
3. Promoting Intellectual Honesty and Actionable Insight. The contest aims to encourage participants to research, reflect, and write about the gap between knowing and doing in the face of global crises. By examining real-world evidence and human behavior patterns, participants will develop compelling analyses that are both intellectually rigorous and accessible to a wider audience, ultimately contributing to our understanding of how societies can move from awareness to decisive action.
4. Motivating watching authentic films to learn English. The contest aims to reveal the potential of authentic films to build up the English language and culture competence, to widen horizons and think globally.
5. Showcasing talent. The contest aims to provide a platform for emerging writers to showcase their talent and creativity in the field of creative writing on topics related to the society’ future, progress, development.

6. Providing recognition and rewards. The contest aims to recognize and reward outstanding writing on the suggested issue, providing an incentive for participants to strive for excellence in their writing.

**To participate in the Contest** you are to be a student (pupil) of a senior secondary school or a first year university student.

**The key priorities in the Contest are to:**

- watch reflectively;
- research virtuously;
- think critically;
- write creatively.

**To successfully perform** in the Contest, follow these Steps:

1. Understand the task. Write an essay (in English) related to the offered Film Base within the Year Problem Area suggested. You can write on the suggested essay topic as it is or slightly adapt it still keeping to the Year Problem Area outlined. The essay should be a 300 words piece of writing (font Times New Roman, 14) in a free style. It should be original, creative, engaging, well-reasoned and scientifically relevant, contain arguments, and needs to demonstrate the critical analysis supported with 2-3 cites and references to the sources.

2. Understand the theme. Make sure you fully understand the priorities and the problem area of the contest. This will help you to focus your writing and ensure that your entry is relevant to the competition.

3. Study the film basis. Work with the film-club session suggested (watch the episodes, reflect on the information presented and problems covered, do the tasks, respond to the questions, formulate your ideas, share them with other participants).

Year 2026 film basis is “Don’t Look Up” (2021) by Adam McKay.

4. Formulate the topic. In Year 2026 the suggested essay topic is “Overcoming Global Crises: The Need for Critical Thinking and the Dangers of Ignorance and Inaction”. You can come up with the topic of your own that falls in line with the suggested topic area.

5. Make the research and think critically. Take time to work with the film-club assignments and episodes, to identify the main ideas and messages. Reflect on the session, consider the problems the film club session brings into the focus of your attention in the perspective of the Contest Problem Area. Analyse the material of the film-club session, research into the problem in focus, question, analyse, interpret, evaluate and make judgements, relate to the film ideas and details, search for the reliable information to support your opinions and cite in your essay (some supporting facts, scientific data, specialists’ opinions or prominent people’s ideas and words on the problems, etc.). Be virtuous and careful with citing and giving references to the sources used in APA Citation Style (see: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1PJQoAYHaXslEGjVPDBFxsq6oRZCp4Ax3/view>). This will help you to create an informed, accurate and original piece of writing, that is related to the film suggested.

6. Plan your writing. Before you begin writing, take some time to plan out your piece. Consider the structure, style, and tone you want to use, and decide on the key points you want to make. Write a plan for your essay. This will help you to create a well-organized and cohesive piece of writing.

7. Showcase your creativity. Don’t be afraid to take risks and be creative with your writing. Use descriptive language, vivid imagery, and unique perspectives to bring your piece to life.

8. Follow the guidelines. Make sure you carefully read and follow the guidelines and rules of the contest. Pay attention to the word count, formatting, and submission deadlines to ensure that your entry is eligible for the competition.

9. Write the draft. Write the first draft and seek feedback from others to help you improve your skills and enhance your creativity.

10. Edit and revise. Once you have finished your first draft, take some time to edit and revise your work. Look for areas where you can tighten your writing, eliminate unnecessary words, and improve the overall flow of your piece. The more you write, the better you will become!

11. Share your ideas and creativity with the world! Once finished, submit your essay to [gerfil@sspu.edu.ua](mailto:gerfil@sspu.edu.ua) with the subject “Film-Based Writing Contest” and the filled application, the template is attached.

**Deadline: March 30, 2026.**

### Заявка

на участь у КОНКУРСІ ТВОРЧОГО ПИСЬМА ЗА ФІЛЬМОМ:

Переглядай рефлексивно, досліджуй добросовісно, мисли критично, пиши креативно!  
(англійською мовою)

ПІБ	
Клас /курс	
Заклад освіти	
Контактні дані: телефон, e-mail	
Назва роботи, що подається на конкурс	
Дозвіл на публікацію роботи (так/ні)	
ПІБ керівника роботи	
Посада керівника роботи	
Контактні дані керівника роботи	