

Asidisi Vidumaga School Creative Competition – 2026

Organised by the Department of Government Information to Enhance Media Literacy among School Students

The Department of Government Information hereby invites entries for the **Asidisi Vidumaga School Creative Competition – 2026**, an annual competition organised with the objective of enhancing media literacy and encouraging media-related creativity among school students. The call for entries for the 2026 competition will commence on 5 August 2026.

Further expanding the scope of the competition, ten (10) competitions have been planned for 2026. These competitions will be conducted under the Junior, Senior, and Open age categories. Accordingly, with the exception of the Best Research Paper Competition, each competition will be conducted in one or more of the relevant age categories. The Best Research Paper Competition will be conducted exclusively for school teachers.

Age Categories:

- Junior: Grades 6 to 9
- Senior: Grades 10 to 13
- Open: Grades 6 to 13 (Certain competitions will be conducted exclusively under the Open category.)

The competitions will be conducted in the Sinhala, Tamil, and English media of instruction. Some competitions will be conducted separately in the Sinhala, Tamil, and English media, whilst certain competitions will be conducted under the Open category irrespective of the language medium.

Students of Government, Semi-Government, Private, and International Schools are eligible to participate in the competitions designated for school students. Likewise, teachers of Government, Semi-Government, Private, and International Schools are eligible to participate in the Best Research Paper Competition, which is conducted exclusively for school teachers.

For each competition, winners will be selected separately, as applicable to the respective competition, according to the relevant age category and language medium. First, Second, and Third Places, together with Certificates of Merit, will be awarded. All winners will receive certificates and valuable prizes.

For certain competitions, entries may be submitted either by registered post or e-mail, whilst for others, entries will be accepted by e-mail only.

The General Rules and Conditions set out below shall apply to all competitions. In addition, participants are required to pay careful attention to the specific rules and conditions applicable to each individual competition when submitting their entries. Entries that do not comply with the prescribed requirements will be rejected without prior notice.

General Rules and Conditions

1. Any student submitting an entry must be a bona fide student of the relevant school. (The student must be enrolled at the relevant school on the date on which the application form accompanying the entry is certified.)
2. All entries shall be submitted only together with the prescribed application form applicable to the respective competition. The application form must be certified and recommended by the Principal of the school with his/her signature and official seal. All information provided in the application form must be complete, accurate, and legible. Certificates awarded to winners will be prepared solely on the basis of the information provided in the application form. Entries submitted with incomplete or illegible application forms will be rejected without prior notice.
3. Entries submitted without the prescribed application form, or with an application form that does not conform to the format specified for the respective competition, will be rejected without prior notice.

4. Principals shall ensure that application forms submitted by students who have left school after completing the G.C.E. Ordinary Level Examination, the G.C.E. Advanced Level Examination, or for any other reason are not certified or recommended. If an award is granted to such a participant, the award shall be cancelled. Where it is subsequently established that an entry has been submitted by a student who has already left school, the entry will be rejected without prior notice.
5. Entries that do not comply with the specific rules and conditions applicable to the respective competition will also be rejected without prior notice.
6. Written entries shall be submitted on A4-size paper, using one side of each sheet only, either in clear handwriting or in computer typescript. In addition, all pages must be consecutively numbered.
7. Where entries are prepared using computer typesetting, they shall comply with the following formatting requirements:

Requirement

Specification

Font Size :12 pt

Line Spacing :1.5

Page Margins : Top – 1 inch; Bottom – 1 inch; Left – 1.5 inches; Right – 1 inch

Font Colour : Black

Font : Sinhala – *Iskoola Potha*; Tamil – *Baamini*; English – *Times New Roman*

8. All entries submitted for the competitions must be the original work of the student submitting the relevant application form.
9. A student may submit entries for any number of competitions. However, a separate application form must be submitted for each competition. A maximum of two (2) entries may be submitted by a single applicant for any one competition.
10. Entries and application forms may be submitted either by registered post or e-mail, as applicable.

Where entries are submitted by registered post, they shall be addressed to:
Department of Government Information, No. 163, Polhengoda Road, Colombo 05.

When submitting entries by registered post, the top left-hand corner of the envelope, and when submitting by e-mail, the Subject line of the e-mail, shall clearly state the relevant competition in the following format:

Asidisi Vidumaga School Creative Competition – <Competition Name> – <Junior / Senior / Open Category> – <Sinhala / Tamil / English Medium>

Example: If a student is submitting an entry for the News Presentation Competition under the Senior Category in the English Medium, the subject line of the e-mail or the wording on the top left-hand corner of the envelope shall read:

Asidisi Vidumaga School Creative Competition – News Presentation Competition – Senior Category – English Medium

11. Entries will be evaluated by a panel of eminent experts. The decision of the Judging Panel shall be final. No requests for reconsideration of the panel's decision will be entertained, except in relation to disputes concerning the originality or ownership of a submitted entry.

12. The closing date for the submission of entries is 15 October 2026. Entries received after the closing date will be rejected without prior notice.

Competition List

Serial No	Competition	Category / Award	Language Medium	Competition No.
1	Short Story Competition	Junior	Sinhala	1
			Tamil	2
			English	3
		Senior	Sinhala	4
			Tamil	5
			English	6

Serial No	Competition		Category / Award	Language Medium	Competition No.
2	Screenplay Writing Competition		Junior	Sinhala	7
				Tamil	8
				English	9
			Senior	Sinhala	10
				Tamil	11
				English	12
3	Photography Competition		Junior	Not Applicable	13
			Senior	Not Applicable	14
4	Broadcast Presentation Competition		Junior	Sinhala	15
				Tamil	16
				English	17
			Senior	Sinhala	18
				Tamil	19
				English	20
5	Short Film Competition	Best Production	Junior	Not Applicable	21
		Best Direction		Not Applicable	22
		Best Performance		Not Applicable	23
		Best Cinematography		Not Applicable	24
		Best Sound Design and Original Music		Not Applicable	25
		Best Production	Senior	Not Applicable	26
		Best Direction		Not Applicable	27
		Best Performance		Not Applicable	28
		Best Cinematography		Not Applicable	29
		Best Sound Design and Original Music		Not Applicable	30
6	Best School Media Magazine		Open	Not Applicable	31
7	Best School Radio Service		Open	Not Applicable	32
8	Best School Facebook Page		Open	Not Applicable	33
9	Best School YouTube Channel		Open	Not Applicable	34
10	Best Research Paper		Teachers Only	Not Applicable	35

Competition Rules and Conditions

1. Short Story Competition

- I. This competition will be conducted under the Junior and Senior age categories in the Sinhala, Tamil, and English media of instruction.
- II. Contestants may write on a theme (subject) of their own choice. The short story shall not exceed 2,500 words.
- III. Short stories submitted for this competition must not have been previously submitted to any other competition.
- IV. Each contestant may submit a maximum of two (2) short stories.
- V. Each short story shall be assigned an appropriate title relevant to its theme.
- VI. Contestants shall pay particular attention to General Rules and Conditions Nos. 6, 7, and 10 when submitting their entries.
- VII. The short story shall conform to the essential structural characteristics of a conventional short story.
- VIII. The short story submitted must be the original work of the contestant. If, even after the announcement of the results, it is established that a submitted short story is not the original work of the contestant, the award shall be withdrawn.
- IX. It is mandatory to submit the entry together with the prescribed application form in Form 01.
- X. All other General Rules and Conditions of the competition shall apply.
- XI. Entries submitted by e-mail shall be sent to: publicationcolombo@gmail.com

2. Screenplay Writing Competition

- I. This competition will be conducted under the Junior and Senior age categories in the Sinhala, Tamil, and English media of instruction.
- II. Contestants may base their screenplay on a theme (subject) of their own choice.
- III. The screenplay shall be written for a narrative short film with a running time of 10–15 minutes. Screenplays for documentary films will not be accepted.
- IV. Screenplays prepared for short films submitted to the Short Film Competition under this competition series may also be submitted to the Screenplay Writing Competition.
- V. Contestants shall pay particular attention not only to the storyline but also to the essential elements and structure of a screenplay. Accordingly, special attention shall be given to the guidelines for the Screenplay Writing Competition and the Short Film Competition set out below.
- VI. Each contestant may submit a maximum of two (2) screenplays.
- VII. Screenplays submitted for this competition must not have been previously submitted to any other competition.
- VIII. Each screenplay shall be assigned an appropriate title relevant to its theme.
- IX. Contestants shall pay particular attention to General Rules and Conditions Nos. 6, 7, and 10 when submitting their entries.
- X. The screenplay submitted must be the original work of the contestant. If, even after the announcement of the results, it is established that a submitted screenplay is not the original work of the contestant, the award shall be withdrawn.
- XI. It is mandatory to submit the entry together with the prescribed application form in Form 01.
- XII. All other General Rules and Conditions of the competition shall apply.
- XIII. Entries submitted by e-mail shall be sent to dgiscriptcompet@gmail.com.

3. Photography Competition

- I. This competition will be conducted under the Junior and Senior age categories and will be open to participants irrespective of the language medium.
- II. Photographs may be submitted under any of the following themes:
 - Environmental Protection and Climate Change
 - Peace, Social Cohesion and Sri Lankan Identity
 - Water Resources and Their Importance
 - Sporting Excellence and Active Youth
 - Urbanisation and Its Impact
- III. All photographs shall be submitted as 10 × 12 inch prints, either in colour or black and white. Alternatively, photographs of the same size may be submitted electronically by e-mail in either colour or black and white.
- IV. Note: If you intend to specify digital image dimensions or resolution (rather than a print size) for e-mail submissions, it would be advisable to state the required pixel dimensions or minimum resolution (e.g. 300 dpi), as "10 × 12 inches" technically refers to the print size.
- V. All photographs submitted must have been taken by the contestant. If, even after the announcement of the results, it is established that a submitted photograph was not taken by the contestant, the award shall be withdrawn.
- VI. Photographs submitted for this competition must not have been previously submitted to any other competition.
- VII. Each contestant may submit a maximum of two (2) photographs.
- VIII. Each photograph shall be assigned an appropriate title relevant to its theme.

- IX. Photographs taken using either professional cameras or smartphones are eligible for submission.
- X. Where photographs are submitted by registered post, the following information shall be clearly written on the reverse of each photograph. Where photographs are submitted by e-mail, the same information shall be clearly included in the body of the e-mail accompanying the attached photograph:
- Full name of the contestant;
 - Name and address of the school;
 - Competition category (Junior or Senior);
 - Theme of the photograph;
 - Title of the photograph; and
 - A contact telephone number of the contestant.
- XI. It is mandatory to submit the entry together with the prescribed application form in Form 01.
- XII. All other General Rules and Conditions of the competition shall apply.
- XIII. Entries submitted by e-mail shall be sent to govphotonews.ex@gmail.com.

4. Broadcast Presentation Competition

- I. This competition will be conducted under the Junior and Senior age categories in the Sinhala, Tamil, and English media of instruction.
- II. Contestants shall record their presentation as a video and submit it by e-mail.
- III. The maximum duration of the video shall be six (6) minutes, comprising:
 - a news presentation of up to three (3) minutes; and
 - a documentary, feature, or programme presentation of up to three (3) minutes.
- IV. The video and audio quality shall be clear. At the beginning of the video, the contestant shall clearly state his or her name, age category, and school.
- V. Both presentations included in the video shall be recorded in a single continuous take and shall not be edited or interrupted at any stage.
- VI. Both presentations shall be delivered by the contestant. Voice-overs, dubbing, or substitute narration by any other person shall not be permitted.
- VII. Videos shall be submitted in MP4 or MOV format.
- VIII. Particular attention shall be paid to the following aspects of the presentation: Pronunciation; Voice control; Language proficiency; Presentation style; Credibility of the presentation; Creativity; Time management; Ability to maintain audience engagement; and Organisation and coherence of the content.
- IX. Each contestant may submit one (1) video only.
- X. It is mandatory to submit the video together with the prescribed application form in Form 01.
- XI. Contestants shortlisted for the final round will be invited to participate in a live competition at a venue to be notified subsequently.
- XII. All other General Rules and Conditions of the competition shall apply.
- XIII. Videos shall be submitted only to dgi.announcing@gmail.com.

5. Short Film Competition

- I. This competition will be conducted under the Junior and Senior age categories and will be open to participants irrespective of the language medium.
- II. Short films produced using either professional cameras or smartphones are eligible for submission.
- III. Contestants may produce a short film on any theme appropriate for the school community.
- IV. Each short film shall be assigned an appropriate title relevant to its theme.
- V. As this is a school-based competition, each school may submit a maximum of two (2) short films for each age category.
- VI. Short films submitted for this competition must not have been previously submitted to any other competition.
- VII. The running time of the short film shall be between 10 and 15 minutes.
- VIII. Contestants shall pay particular attention not only to the storyline but also to the essential elements of short filmmaking. Accordingly, special attention shall be given to the Guidelines for the Screenplay Writing Competition and the Short Film Competition set out below.
- IX. Whilst contestants may obtain the guidance and assistance of teachers in relation to technical aspects of the production, all aspects of the production process must be carried out by the students themselves.
- X. The short film submitted must have been conceived, produced, and completed by the contestants. If, even after the announcement of the results, it is established that the short film was not produced by the contestants, the award shall be withdrawn.
- XI. Short films shall be submitted in MP4 or MOV format.
- XII. Every short film submitted will automatically be considered for the following awards: Best Production, Best Direction, Best Performance, Best Cinematography, Best Sound Design and Original Music
- XIII. It is mandatory to submit the entry together with the prescribed application form in Form 02.
- XIV. All other General Rules and Conditions of the competition shall apply.
- XV. Entries submitted by e-mail shall be sent to editgfu@gmail.com.

6. Best School Media Magazine Competition

- I. This competition will be conducted as an Open Competition, irrespective of age category or language medium.
- II. The magazine shall be produced in A4 size.
- III. The cover page of the magazine shall be in colour. The inside pages may be in colour, black and white, or a combination of both.
- IV. The magazine shall comprise 20 to 30 pages.
- V. Fonts of varying styles and sizes may be used, as appropriate to the design of the magazine.
- VI. The magazine may be produced either as a printed publication or as an electronic magazine (e-magazine).
- VII. Each magazine submitted shall be assigned an appropriate title relevant to its theme.
- VIII. All articles and creative works included in the magazine shall be the original work of the school's students.
- IX. The magazine may include articles and creative content on any subject suitable for the school community, including economics, politics, arts, literature, science, sports, international affairs, and other relevant fields. It may also include photographs, illustrations, cartoons, diagrams, puzzles, graphs, and similar content.
- X. No material published in the magazine shall infringe the copyright of any third party or constitute plagiarism.
- XI. All information and content published in the magazine shall be accurate.
- XII. The magazine shall not contain hate speech, and the use of defamatory, abusive, or offensive language shall be avoided.
- XIII. The magazine shall not contain any content that discriminates on the grounds of race, ethnicity, religion, gender, disability, or any other protected characteristic. Respect shall be shown for cultural and religious diversity.
- XIV. The magazine shall not contain graphic violence or any other material unsuitable for the school community.
- XV. The magazine shall be culturally sensitive and inclusive.

- XVI. Articles may be written in a formal, informal, or mixed style, as appropriate to the publication. Particular attention shall be paid to spelling, grammar, punctuation, and the correct use of language.
- XVII. The magazine shall conform to the essential structural and editorial characteristics of a standard magazine.
- XVIII. Articles and creative works in more than one language shall not be included within the same magazine.
- XIX. As this is a school-based competition, each school may submit a maximum of two (2) magazines for the competition.
- XX. It is mandatory to submit the entry together with the prescribed application form in Form 02.
- XXI. All other General Rules and Conditions of the competition shall apply.
- XXII. Entries submitted by e-mail shall be sent to desathiya.editor@gmail.com.

7. Best School Radio Service Competition

- I. This competition will be conducted as an Open Competition, irrespective of age category or language medium.
- II. A school radio service may be conducted in one or more languages, and the language(s) of operation shall not affect its eligibility to participate in the competition.
- III. The radio service submitted for the competition must be a school radio service operated by the respective school.
- IV. The radio service shall have been in continuous operation for at least six (6) months prior to the date on which applications are invited.
- V. All presenters of programmes broadcast through the radio service must be students of the respective school.
- VI. Whilst teachers and other external parties may provide guidance and technical assistance, the planning and presentation of programmes, content creation, and scriptwriting must be carried out entirely by the students of the school.
- VII. The radio service shall conform to the essential operational and programming characteristics of a standard radio service.
- VIII. The radio service may broadcast programmes covering any subject relevant to the school community, including economics, politics, arts, literature, science, sports, international affairs, and other appropriate fields.
- IX. All information and content broadcast through the radio service shall be accurate.
- X. The content broadcast through the radio service shall be relevant to the school community.
- XI. The voice, sound effects, music, and all other audio elements of the content / programmes broadcast through the radio service shall be clearly recorded and submitted in audio format. The submission shall comprise a maximum of ten (10) programmes, representing a variety of programme types broadcast over one continuous week. In addition, details of the production team responsible for each programme shall be submitted separately for every programme included in the entry.
- XII. The content broadcast through the radio service shall not contain hate speech or defamatory, abusive, or offensive language.

- XIII. The content broadcast through the radio service shall not contain material that discriminates on the grounds of race, ethnicity, religion, gender, disability, or any other protected characteristic. Respect shall be shown for cultural and religious diversity.
- XIV. The content broadcast through the radio service shall not contain violence or any other material unsuitable for the school community. It shall also be culturally sensitive and inclusive.
- XV. Where a school submits more than one school radio service for the competition, a separate application form shall be submitted for each radio service.
- XVI. Schools participating in this competition shall submit the prescribed application form in Form 02 to schoolradio26@gmail.com by e-mail. (Applications for this competition will be accepted by e-mail only.)
- XVII. All other General Rules and Conditions of the competition shall apply.

8. Best School Facebook Page Competition

- I. This competition will be conducted as an Open Competition, irrespective of age category or language medium.
- II. A Facebook page operated in one or more languages shall be eligible for the competition, and the language(s) used shall not affect its eligibility.
- III. The Facebook page submitted for the competition shall have been in continuous operation and regularly updated for at least six (6) months prior to the date on which applications are invited.
- IV. The Facebook page submitted for the competition shall be either:
 - the official Facebook page of the school, operated with the approval of the Principal and under the guidance of teachers; or
 - the official Facebook page of a school sports team, student association, or student society of the respective school.

Facebook pages of Old Boys'/Old Girls' Associations, School Development Societies, or similar organisations shall not be eligible.

- V. Whilst teachers, former students, and other external parties may provide technical assistance and guidance, all content published on the Facebook page shall be created by the students of the school themselves.
- VI. Rather than directly reposting content from other Facebook pages, contestants shall create and publish their own original content.
- VII. No content published on the Facebook page shall infringe the copyright of any third party or constitute plagiarism.
- VIII. The Facebook page may include articles and creative content on any subject suitable for the school community, including economics, politics, arts, literature, science, sports, international affairs, and other relevant fields. It may also include photographs, illustrations, cartoons, diagrams, puzzles, graphs, and similar content.
- IX. It is preferable that the Facebook page contains only content relevant to its stated purpose.
- X. All information and content published on the Facebook page shall be accurate.
- XI. The content published on the Facebook page shall be relevant to the school community.

- XII. All images, photographs, audio, videos, and other media published on the Facebook page shall be of clear and good quality.
- XIII. The Facebook page shall not contain hate speech or defamatory, abusive, or offensive language.
- XIV. The Facebook page shall not contain any content that discriminates on the grounds of race, ethnicity, religion, gender, disability, or any other protected characteristic. Respect shall be shown for cultural and religious diversity.
- XV. The Facebook page shall not contain graphic violence or any other material unsuitable for the school community. The content shall also be culturally sensitive and inclusive.
- XVI. Users shall be able to post comments on the Facebook page. Particular attention will be paid to whether comments are responded to in a courteous and respectful manner.
- XVII. Where a school submits more than one Facebook page for the competition, a separate application form shall be submitted for each Facebook page.
- XVIII. Schools participating in this competition shall submit the prescribed application form in Form 02 to srilankaonlineav@gmail.com by e-mail. (Applications for this competition will be accepted by e-mail only.)
- XIX. All other General Rules and Conditions of the competition shall apply.

9. Best School YouTube Channel Competition

- I. This competition shall be conducted as an Open competition, irrespective of age category or language medium.
- II. A YouTube channel operated in one or more language media shall be eligible for entry. The language(s) of operation shall not affect eligibility.
- III. The YouTube channel submitted for the competition must have been in continuous operation and regularly updated as a YouTube channel for a minimum period of six (06) months prior to the date on which applications are called.
- IV. The YouTube channel submitted for the competition must be either:
 - the official YouTube channel of the relevant school, operated with the approval of the Principal and under the guidance of teachers; or
 - the official YouTube channel of a sports team, student association, or student society of that school.

(Channels operated by Old Boys'/Old Girls' Associations, School Development Societies, or similar organisations are not eligible.)
- V. Although teachers, alumni, and other external parties may provide technical assistance and guidance, all content published on the YouTube channel submitted for the competition must be created entirely by the students of the respective school.
- VI. Rather than directly reposting content from other YouTube channels, all published content must be the original work of the students themselves.
- VII. No content published on the YouTube channel submitted for the competition shall infringe the copyright of, or constitute plagiarism of, any other work.
- VIII. The channel may contain videos on any subject suitable for the school community, including, but not limited to, economics, politics, arts, literature, science, sports, and international affairs.
- IX. It is preferable that the channel contains only content relevant to its stated purpose.
- X. The facts and information presented in the content published on the YouTube channel must be accurate.
- XI. The content published on the YouTube channel must be relevant to the school community.

- XII. All videos shall maintain a high standard of visual and audio quality.
- XIII. The content published on the YouTube channel shall not contain hate speech or defamatory, abusive, or offensive language.
- XIV. The content published on the YouTube channel shall not include material that discriminates on the grounds of race, ethnicity, religion, gender, disability, or any other characteristic. Cultural and religious diversity must be respected.
- XV. The content published on the YouTube channel shall not contain explicit violence or any material unsuitable for the school community. It shall be culturally sensitive and inclusive.
- XVI. The channel shall allow subscribers and viewers to post comments. Particular consideration will be given to whether comments are responded to courteously and respectfully.
- XVII. Where a school submits more than one YouTube channel for this competition, a separate application form must be submitted for each YouTube channel.
- XVIII. The YouTube channel submitted for the competition, together with a completed Form 02, shall be submitted via email to dgivideolk@gmail.com. (Applications for this competition will be accepted by email only.)
- XIX. All other General Conditions of the competition shall apply accordingly.

10. Best Research Paper Competition

- I. This competition shall be conducted as an Open competition for teachers of Government, Semi-Government, Private, and International Schools only, irrespective of the language medium.
- II. Research papers may be submitted in Sinhala, Tamil, or English.
- III. Research papers shall be submitted under the theme: "Media Policies, Contemporary Media Challenges, and the Impact of Digitalisation."
- IV. The research paper shall contain no fewer than 2,500 words and not more than 3,000 words.
- V. References and citations shall be prepared in accordance with the Harvard Referencing Style.
- VI. The researcher's name, designation, school, email address, and telephone number shall be stated immediately below the title in 10-point font.
- VII. All research papers shall be typewritten and submitted in compliance with General Conditions Nos. 06 and 07 of this competition.
- VIII. The research paper submitted for the competition must not have been submitted previously to any other competition.
- IX. Each participant may submit a maximum of two (02) research papers.
- X. Each research paper shall be assigned an appropriate title relevant to its subject matter.
- XI. The research paper shall conform to the fundamental structural requirements of a standard research paper.
- XII. The research paper submitted for the competition must be the original work of the respective participant. If, even after the announcement of the results, it is established that a submitted research paper is not the original work of the participant, the award shall be withdrawn.
- XIII. Teachers participating in this competition shall submit their research paper together with a completed Form 03 to asidisividumaga.research@gmail.com. (Applications for this competition will be accepted by email only.)
- XIV. All other General Conditions of the competition shall apply accordingly.