



CARICOM COMPETITION COMMISSION  
REGIONAL YOUTH ESSAY COMPETITION

2019/2020



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# 1. INTRODUCTION TO THE CARICOM COMPETITION COMMISSION

**Chapter 8** of the **Revised Treaty of Chaguaramas (RTC)**, signed at Nassau, The Bahamas on July 5, 2001 is concerned with Competition Policy and Consumer Protection in the CARICOM single market. Article 169 sets out the objectives of Community Competition Policy as:

*(a) the promotion and maintenance of competition and enhancement of economic efficiency in production, trade and commerce;*

*(b) the prohibition of anti-competitive business conduct which prevents, restricts or distorts competition or which constitutes the abuse of a dominant position in the market; and*

*(c) the promotion of consumer welfare and protection of consumer interests.*

Article 171 of the RTC established the CARICOM Competition Commission (**Commission or CCC**) for the purpose of achieving the foregoing objectives of the Community Competition Policy. The CCC came into operation in January 2008, and is headquartered in Paramaribo, Suriname.

Over the past decade, the CCC has sought to monitor and investigate anti-competitive conduct in the single market and to adjudicate upon cross-border competition complaints. The CCC has also focused on supporting the strengthening of the CARICOM Single Market and Economy (CSME).

Whereas the CCC does not directly enforce consumer protection laws, it can cause consumers to benefit from the maintenance of competitive markets and by its mandate to promote and protect consumer welfare in the CSME.

## 2. RATIONALE FOR COMPETITION

**Art. 173(2) (f) and (h)** of the RTC mandate the Commission to “*facilitate the exchange of relevant information and expertise; and .... develop and disseminate information about competition policy and consumer protection.*”

Additionally, **Article 172 (b)** states that the “... *Commission shall promote and protect competition in the Community and co-ordinate the implementation of the Community Competition Policy;*”.

The CCC has noted that it is important to build a culture in the Caribbean that is aware of competition and consumer advocacy at the very early stages of educational development. As such, the CCC seeks via the initiative of a regional youth essay competition to directly educate the youth on these critical matters.

A first step in the overall outreach to the minds that will one day rule the CARICOM, is the launch of this regional youth essay competition for students attending secondary schools within the Caribbean Community, with the objective of sensitizing youth across the region on the importance of competition law and policy and consumer protection.

## 3. INFORMATION

Information about the Treaty, the Commission and its mandate in competition and consumer matters is available on the Commission’s website:

[www.carciomcompetitioncommission.com](http://www.carciomcompetitioncommission.com)

## 4. GUIDELINES FOR THE REGIONAL YOUTH ESSAY COMPETITION

### A) Overview

The CARICOM Competition Commission (“Commission”) will launch an essay competition for students attending secondary schools in the Caribbean Community (“CARICOM”). The aim of the essay competition is to sensitize youth across the region on the importance of competition law and policy and consumer protection. The competition also aims to facilitate discussion on competition law and policy and consumer protection amongst students and teachers, with encouraged and creative learning throughout the process.

### B) Eligibility

Participants must be secondary school students in a CARICOM Member State within one of the following age categories as at date of the deadline for essay submissions stated below:

- Ages 12-15; and
- Ages 16-19

### C) Topics

Students can choose **one** of the following two topics:

1. *“How does fair competition among businesses benefit me and my region?”*
2. *“How does consumer protection law benefit me and my region”.*

### D) General Guidelines for Participation

1. The competition is open **only** to students attending any secondary school in a CARICOM Member State.
2. Children of the Board of Commissioners or staff of the CCC are not eligible to enter the competition.
3. Essays must be typed, double-spaced, in 12-point Times New Roman font and have the following word limits:
  - a. **Ages 12-15:** a maximum of **1,000** words including any tables, references and footnotes.

- b. Ages **16-19**: a minimum of **1,500** words and a maximum of **2,000** words including any tables, references and footnotes.
4. Essays must have a cover page showing:
    - the name of the student
    - the age and date of birth of the student,
    - Parent/Guardian name and contact number
    - the name of the school which he/she attends,
    - the name of his/her supervising teacher and
    - the title of the essay.
  5. Entries missing any of the above information will not be considered.
  6. Essays must be original (i.e. written in your own words). If information is used from another source, it must be quoted or referenced in the essay.
  7. Essays must be written by one person. Co-authored essays will not be accepted.
  8. Essays must be written in English.
  9. Original graphic arts, images or videos can be embedded in the essay.
  10. Essays must be submitted in electronic PDF form. (Graphic art and images can be submitted as separate attachments).

**E) Submission**

The deadline for submission is **Friday, December 13, 2019 at 3:30 pm Eastern Caribbean Time**. Electronic submissions should be submitted to [registry@ccc.sr](mailto:registry@ccc.sr) under the caption "**Regional Youth Essay Competition**" and are subject to the guidelines above in section D.

**SUBMISSIONS AFTER THE DEADLINE WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED.**

**F) Evaluation criteria**

The judges will be looking for quality essays with the following factors considered:

1. Originality and communication – knowledge about the topic
2. Content – clear and concise arguments to support their view

3. Presentation – spelling, punctuation, grammar and clear structure of the essay (introduction, body and conclusion)
4. Style – overall quality of writing and use of graphic arts, images or videos

**G) Prizes**

The prizes for both age categories are as follows:

- First place students – **USD1000.00**
- Second place students – **USD750.00**
- Third place students – **USD500.00**

The school(s) of the winning students will also be awarded book prizes valued at **USD1000**.