



HARVARD ALUMNI CLUB OF BRAZIL

Harvard Book Prize Brazil 2023 Regulations

The Harvard Alumni Club of Brazil (HACB) is pleased to announce the 2023 Harvard Book Prize Essay Contest.

1- DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES

1.1 The Harvard Book Prize is a voluntary initiative of the Harvard Alumni Association which any local city or country chapter of the Harvard Alumni Association can organize in its territory. The Harvard Alumni Club of Brazil organized the first Brazil-wide Harvard Book Prize Essay Contest in 2022. The essay contest invites the participation of Brazilian high school students from private and public schools enrolled in the junior year of high school (graduating class of 2024).

1.2 The purpose of the Harvard Book Prize Essay contest is to

- 1.2.1 Identify students with interest in and potential to study at Harvard or another university abroad, especially among segments of the population that do not have access to information and resources to explore studying abroad;
- 1.2.2 Engage Harvard alumni in Brazil in a volunteer activity related to promoting education and sharing their experience of studying at Harvard and
- 1.2.3 Offer an opportunity to Brazilian high schools to learn more about Harvard and interact with the alumni community.

2- PARTICIPATION

2.1 Participation in the Harvard Book Prize 2023 Essay Contest is open to any private or public school in Brazil. However, the HACB's capacity to mobilize alumni volunteers requires participation to be limited to a total of sixty (60) schools.

2.2 Due to the limited capacity, the Harvard Book Prize Brazil will not be widely publicized. Schools will be mobilized to participate by the alumni volunteers. Each school will have a Harvard Alumni sponsor who will act as a liaison between the school and Harvard Alumni Club of Brazil, answering questions and providing guidance to the school.

2.3 To participate in the Harvard Book Prize 2023 Essay Contest, the school must register, filling out the following form and submitting it by June 15, 2023. Link: <https://forms.gle/2BTXFFCSkToid726> . The registration requirement applies to all schools, including those who participated in 2022.

2.4 School registrations will be accepted in the order they are received. If the limit of 60 schools is reached before the registration deadline, additional schools attempting to register will be put on a waiting list. In this case, the Harvard Alumni Club of Brazil will attempt to mobilize additional volunteers to open a limited number of additional openings which will be distributed so as to allow access of underrepresented states or school types.

2.4 The Harvard Book Prize Brazil Essay Contest invites essay submissions by students enrolled in the junior year of high school (graduating class of 2024).

2.5 The Harvard Alumni Club of Brazil will also accept up to twenty (20) submissions of essays by junior high school students from schools that did not register to participate.

3- ESSAY GUIDELINES

3.1 Students may submit an essay in English on one of the following three topics:

3.1.1 Brazil: Current Challenges

Briefly describe a big challenge Brazil is facing today.
How do you plan to contribute to address this challenge?

3.1.2 A Discovery that changed my life

Can you think of a discovery or a great insight that really surprised and fascinated you and made you want to learn and study more? A book you read, a movie you watched, an experiment (in school, in your kitchen, in your garden), a conversation, a lecture? Briefly describe the discovery or insight and its impact on your studies and your life.

3.1.3 My role model

Choose a public figure (**not** a relative or friend about whom no public information is available) who you regard as a role model. Your essay should address two questions: (1) Who is or was this person (major accomplishments)? And (2) What can I learn from him/her (why is he or she my role model)? You may choose a public figure from any field -- arts, sciences, sports, popular culture, politician, business leader, religious leader, activist, writer or other.

3.2 Essays must have a minimum of 750 and a maximum of 1000 words. Essays with fewer than 750 or more than 1000 words will be disqualified.

3.3 Essays should be in an A4 format, letter size 12pt and 1,5 line spacing. All essays must have a cover page with the information in **Appendix 1**. The student's or school's name must appear on the cover page but must not be contained in the essay pages.

3.4 Public school students may submit an essay in Portuguese on one of the topics. The same word length and formatting rules apply to Portuguese essays.

3.5 Based on the 2022 Essay Contest, the following guidelines may be useful:

3.5.1 English essays should be written by the student in English. Essays translated by software, by the teacher, any other third-party or through Artificial Intelligence will

be disqualified. Teachers are welcome to assist their students in the process of writing, brainstorming, giving feedback and tips, but are not allowed to write or translate the essays on behalf of the students.

3.5.2 Carefully read the topics. Essays that fail to address all questions raised by the topic will lose points in the review process.

3.5.3 The best essays will show a combination of (a) evidence of research and (b) a personal connection between the topic and student author. Essays that are only a research paper or essays that only present a personal experience without requiring any research will not be among the winners.

4- ESSAY SUBMISSION

4.1 Each participating school may submit up to four (4) student essays to the evaluation committee. If more than four students write essays, the school should promote an internal selection of the best four essays.

4.2 Each essay must be in a separate PDF file. The file name should contain the name of the school and the first and last name of the student.

4.3 Essays must be submitted by email to harvard.bookprize.br@gmail.com. We ask that each school submit its essays as attachments to one single email. The subject line of the email should contain the school name and name of the city and state where the school is located.

4.4 Essays submitted to the 2023 Harvard Book Prize Brazil may be emailed to the Committee starting Monday, June 19, 2023 and must be received no later than **Monday, August 21, 2023 11:59pm** (23:59 horas).

4.5 Students interested in participating on their own (if their school did not register) may email their essay any time during the essay submission period. The subject line of the email should read "Participação avulso – <Name of the student>" Independent submissions must have the same cover page with information as school submissions.

4.6 The Committee will accept up to a maximum of three (3) essays from students from the same non-registered school.

4.7 In addition to sending essays by email to the Committee, each school or individual participant must register each essay in the online form.

Link: <https://forms.gle/owSXwK22GzFHPCWaA>

4.8 By submitting an essay to the Harvard Book Prize Brazil, the student and her/his teacher certify that: (i) the essay is the original work of the student and has not been translated by a third party or software program and (ii) they are aware that any submission considered the result of plagiarism, copyright violation or containing language that represents a hate crime will be disqualified, and the HACB reserves the

right to inform the Harvard College Admissions Office and interrupt the school's participation in the Harvard Book Prize essay contest.

5- HARVARD ALUMNI VOLUNTEERS

5.1 The Harvard Book Prize Brazil essay contest is organized by members of the Harvard Alumni Club of Brazil who volunteer their participation.

5.2 Alumni volunteers play two important roles: (1) they mobilize schools to participate in the Contest, acting as liaison and sponsor for schools; and (2) they serve on the evaluation committee that reads and evaluates the student essays.

5.3 Volunteers who assume responsibility for participating schools (ideally up to four schools) are expected to conduct at least one virtual information session with students and teachers of their schools to share with students the most important lessons from their experience studying at Harvard and basic guidance on the criteria and process of being admitted to a US university. The information session serves the purpose of building a bridge between Harvard, the alumni community and the schools.

5.4 Harvard alumni interested in serving as volunteers in the 2023 edition of the Harvard Book Prize should fill out and submit the following form, preferably by May 31, 2023: <https://forms.gle/WYQNY8X6jyXX8NYv5>

6- EVALUATION CRITERIA AND PROCESS

6.1 Essays will be evaluated and ranked by a Committee composed of Harvard Alumni volunteers. Identifying information will be removed from the essays before being sent to the Committee, and each essay will be evaluated independently by at least two readers.

6.2 Essays will be evaluated on four criteria:

6.2.1 Content: does the essay address the chosen topic? – 30 points

6.2.2 Language: is the language clear, grammatically correct, the text well structured, does the essay succeed in communicating the intended content? -- 30 points. Note: essays that appear to have been translated by a software program will be disqualified; students whose English appears too perfect may be asked for an interview in English (unless they are native speakers or from a bilingual school).

6.2.3 Originality: Does the essay stand out? Express an original idea, show special accomplishments by the student, show intellectual or emotional maturity and the student's personality? – 30 points

6.2.4 Effort: Did the student do research, explore various angles of the chosen topic, read and cite sources? – 10 points

6.3 Essays that receive a minimum of 75 points by each of the two readers (total of 150 points) will advance to the second round of evaluation, conducted by an additional two readers. At the end of the second round, essays will be ranked by the total number of points received from all four readers.

6.4 Due to the great difference in quality between essays from private and public schools seen in the 2022 edition, the Committee may perform, in a second round, separate evaluations of essays from private and from public schools and recognize the top-ranked essays from each school type.

7- RECOGNITION OF WINNERS AND FINALISTS

7.1 The Harvard Book Prize Brazil Essay Contest recognizes three categories of winners:

- (i) National winners – authors of the top three English-language essays;
- (ii) Authors of the top three English-language essays from public schools;
- (iii) Authors of the top three Portuguese-language essays. (Note: only public school students may submit an essay in Portuguese)

7.2 Winners of the Contest will receive a certificate identifying their status and rank and a copy of the prize book. They will also be announced at the Harvard Alumni Summit in Rio de Janeiro in November, as well as in the HACB's social media channels.

7.3 The Harvard Book Prize Essay Contest recognizes as Finalists all students whose essays were rated above 75 points by all four readers.

7.4 Finalists will receive a certificate of honorary mention identifying their status and will be listed in the Contest's final report issued to all participating schools.

7.5 Winners of the Contest are encouraged to stay in contact with the HACB which will make every effort to provide guidance to students interested in applying for study in the US.

7.6 As a rule, the Harvard Book Prize Brazil Essay Contest does not award a material or monetary prize to winners. In 2022, as an exception, a one-week trip to the US to visit Harvard and other universities was awarded to three winners. At this point, such a prize will not be available for the 2023 edition. Should members of the Harvard Alumni community step forward to donate another prize in 2023, the Book Prize organizers will make an announcement to this effect after the deadline for submitting essays.

7.7 The Harvard Book Prize Brazil will provide a certificate of participation to participating schools whose students submitted essays.

7.8 The Harvard Book Prize Brazil will not provide certificates of participation to students who were not among the finalists.

8- TIMELINE OF THE 2023 CONTEST

The timeline of the Harvard Book Prize Brazil 2023 essay contest is as follows:

Announcement of the 2023 edition to Harvard alumni and schools, and recruitment of alumni volunteers	May 9 – 31, 2023
Mobilization of schools and school registration	May 10 through June 26, 2023
School information sessions and essay preparation, internal essay selections	June 1 through July 30, 2023
Essay submission by participating schools and independent student participants to the HACB Committee at harvard.bookprize.br@gmail.com	June 19 through August 21, 2023
Essay evaluation and ranking by the Committee (2 rounds of evaluation)	August 15 through October 15, 2023
Announcement of top-ranked essays	October 31, 2023
Recognition of winners and finalists in schools	Schools may recognize their student finalists at their graduation ceremony or organize a specific event.
Recognition of national winners and finalists	Events may be organized in cities with multiple winners and finalists

Should you have questions or suggestions about the Harvard Book Prize Brazil 2023, please contact Barbara Schmidt Rahmer at harvard.bookprize.br@gmail.com.

**Harvard Book Prize Brazil Organizing Group
Harvard Alumni Club of Brazil**

Anexo I – Modelo da Folha de Rosto

Utilizar como Folha de Rosto o texto partir da linha pontilhada e cadastrar as informações mediante o Link:

<https://forms.gle/79A9GTeZDiBjdt6G6>

Nome completo do(a) aluno(a)	
Série/Ano do(a) aluno(a)	
Título do ensaio	
Tema do ensaio (marcar)	1. Challenge ____ 2. Discovery ____ 3. Role Model ____
Nº de palavras do ensaio	
Nome da escola	
Estado da escola	
Município da escola	
Tipo de escola (marcar)	Pública ____ Privada ____
Idioma do ensaio (marcar)	Inglês ____ Português ____
Tipo de inscrição (marcar)	Escola inscrita ____ Independente ____
Nome do(a) Professor(a)	
Telefone do(a) Professor(a)	
Celular e email da(o) aluna(o)	

Anexo II – Formulário de Inscrição de escola

Preencher este formulário e cadastrar as informações mediante o Link:

<https://forms.gle/s2SBRBcTCGe3eZzu6>

Atenção: As inscrições de escolas devem ser encaminhadas através do formulário Google Forms. (Link acima) Não serão aceitas inscrições encaminhadas em Word, PDF ou outro programa de texto.

Problemas para acessar o formulário com o Link? Por favor, entre em contato por e-mail com a Coordenação, harvard.bookprize.br@gmail.com

Nome da escola	
CEP da escola	
Município da escola	
Estado da escola	
Tipo de escola (marcar)	Pública ____ Privada ____
Pessoa de contato	
Nome	
Cargo	
E-mail	
Telefone	
Nome do Padrinho ou da Madrinha do Harvard Alumni Club of Brazil (se não tiver, favor deixar em branco)	
Como ficou sabendo do Harvard Book Prize? (marcar)	Convite por ex-aluno(a) da Harvard ____ Redes Sociais ____ Informação de um(a) conhecido(a) ____ Outro ____
Se marcou "Outro", favor explique	
Outra informação ou comentário	