

# The Big 3

Perdana Leadership Foundation's "Nurturing the Minds of Future Leaders" Essay Contest 2008 challenges youth to answer (in writing, but of course), one of these three big questions.

1. What is your vision for Malaysia in 2057 when the country celebrates its centennial Independence?
2. Describe what leadership means to you and the role that youth leaders play in shaping Malaysia's future.
3. Describe the relationship among culture, education and leadership, and the factors that you believe are important in moulding the future leaders of Malaysia.

This essay competition is part of the foundation's initiatives to raise awareness of the activities of the foundation with a focus on youth. The objectives of the essay competition are to encourage analytical thought and research into issues of national leadership, to deepen interest in the nation's past, present and future, to unearth writing talents among Malaysia's youth and to encourage Malaysian youth to utilise the resources available at the Perdana Library and other resource centres for their research.

This essay competition is open to all youth aged 13 to 21. Here's your chance to put in words what you know and feel about your country based on any of the three questions you would like to answer.

A compendium of great prizes await winners, including a Chevrolet Aveo Sedan, Apple MacBook, Ipod Nano, computers and mobile phones!



harmony. Indeed, T.H Silcock, 'The sense of shame at subjection and (the) resolve to overcome it by building a viable nation was expressed with great human dignity by Tunku Abdul Rahman on the attainment of Merdeka. For the Tunku, as he assumed the mantle of Prime Minister, there were more dreams to be realised.

On May 27th 1961, the Tunku obliquely referred to a greater dream of his, the concept of Malaya that sent shockwave throughout the region. 'Sooner or later Malaya should have an understanding with Britain and the peoples of Singapore, North Borneo and Sarawak.' On September 16th 1963, Malaysia was formed.

There were plenty of challenges and trials still to

averted the blood bath that would have resulted as Lee Kuan Yew increasingly played the racial

"We found that maturity of thought was not necessarily associated with age or the level of education. We were happy to find lower secondary students who could write and converse as well as or even better than students in upper secondary and tertiary level"

card. In facing all these challenges, the Tunku displayed the strength of character, calmness and integrity that personified him."

**Upper Secondary**  
**Syamsul Azuan bin Che Hasan from MRSM Beseri**

**Title: Bagaimana Mewujudkan Bangsa Malaysia Yang Bersatu-padu?**

"Kita sedia maklum bahawa budaya mencerminkan diri sesuatu bangsa. Oleh itu, sebagai sebuah negara yang bercirikan masyarakat majmuk, kita mempunyai kepelbagaian budaya dan adat resam yang paling unik. Potensi budaya ini hendaklah dikekalkan dan setiap etnik hendaklah menghormati adat resam kaum lain. Rantainya itu, kerajaan telah mengambil inisiatif dengan melaksanakan Dasar Kebudayaan Kebangsaan yang berteraskan kepada kebudayaan rakyat asal rantau ini. Malah memupuk dan memberi galakan kepada aktiviti-aktiviti kebudayaan seperti perkembangan seni muzik, drama, lakonan, dan cabang seni yang lain bagi mewujudkan satu identiti nasional, iaitu satu pembentukan corak kebudayaan kebangsaan yang boleh difahami, dinilai dan diamalkan oleh semua rakyat."

**Tertiary**  
**Mohd Haizal bin Zainuddin (above) from University Kebangsaan Malaysia**

**Title : Lima Pengajaran Yang Dapat Dipelajari Dari Sejarah Malaysia Sejak Merdeka Sehingga Kini**

Sistem politik moden yang ada di Malaysia telah berjaya mewujudkan kestabilan selama 40 tahun lebih. Keupayaannya mewujudkan kestabilan tersebut bergantung kepada dasar-dasar yang dilaksanakannya untuk mengendalikan kontradiksi yang muncul dan meredakan



Last year, this competition attracted over 300 entries from students. Some 50 entries made it to the judges' table and from there, the winners are selected.

## 2007 Winning Entries

**Grand Prize**  
**Lower Secondary**  
**Rachel Decruz from SMK King George V, Seremban**

**Title : Abah**  
"As August 31st dawned, Tunku slept the sleep of a man at peace, a man who has dreamt, persevered and achieved a near miracle. A new nation had been born in an atmosphere of racial

be faced. There was Dr. Subandrio who declared *Malaysia as Indonesia's public enemy and initiated armed hostility or "Confrontation" against the creation of Malaysia.* This happened a short six

"Most of the entrants who wrote in Bahasa Malaysia lacked the ability to communicate in the English language."

weeks after Azahari's Revolt in Brunei which had threatened to spill over, fizzled out. There was also the secession of Singapore. The Tunku decided that a civil war was too high a price to pay and he decided to let Singapore go their separate way. This courageous and even unpopular decision

New Story

ketegangan dalam masyarakat khususnya soal perpaduan kaum. Banyak peristiwa yang boleh dipelajari berkenaan dengan perpaduan kaum. Apabila soal perpaduan kaum diketengahkan, tentunya resipi kejayaan negara sehingga ke hari ini adalah berdasarkan konsep perkongsian kuasa. Kontrak sosial 1957 yang dipersetujui oleh Parti Perikatan, yang pada itu diketuai oleh UMNO, MCA dan MIC, telah mencapai satu konsensus politik antara kaum: pada satu pihak terdapat pengiktirafan akan kedudukan sejarah orang Melayu di negara ini, antara lain, dengan mengadakan peruntukan dalam perlembagaan bagi hak keistimewaan orang Melayu; di pihak lain pula hak kewarganegaraan diberikan kepada Cina, India dan lain-lain, dan mereka dibenarkan meneruskan kegiatan ekonomi tanpa gangguan. Konsep yang berupa situasi menang-menang ini (win-win situation) adalah pengorbanan besar orang-orang Melayu ketika itu dan merupakan satu hubungan timbal balik yang ideal. Apa yang lebih penting, konsep perkongsian antara Melayu dan bukan Melayu ini adalah berdasarkan model konsosiasional yang terdapat dalam masyarakat majmuk (ain di dunia. Ramai pengkaji politik mengakui bahawa masyarakat di negara ini sebagai ...extreme example of a plural society.

## The Good and The Bad

Here's what judges had to say about the entries last year!

"The quality of work varied from one entrant to another in the various aspects of the judging criteria."

"From the way the essays were crafted, there exists weaknesses in the use of language, in articulation, argument and research."

"Language and style were loose, particularly among entrants who submitted their essays in Bahasa Malaysia."

"The command of language, be it Malay or English, is a source of concern among the judges."

"From the interviews with the winners, the weak command of language and inability to articulate became more apparent."

"Most of the entrants who wrote in Bahasa Malaysia lacked the ability to communicate in the English language."

"However, most of the entrants who wrote in English could interact satisfactorily in Bahasa Malaysia."

"We found that maturity of thought was not necessarily associated with age or the level of education. We were happy to find lower secondary students who could write and converse as well as or even better than students in upper secondary and tertiary level."

Find Resources at

## Perdana Library

The Perdana Library is a platform for greater understanding and appreciation of the course taken by Malaysia in successfully creating a nation out of the diverse ethnic, religious and cultural elements of the country's population. The library serves as a repository of works, including audio video material, related to the policies, strategies and initiatives adopted by Malaysia's past Prime Ministers.

The Foundation is building up the collection of books, news clippings, speeches, policy papers, biographies, video footage and sound recordings to become a comprehensive resource centre on Malaysia's history of nation-building. In line with the Foundation's objective of disseminating information on Malaysian leadership, these materials are digitised and are made available to the public through the library's website (library.perdana.org.my).

### Programmes

#### Digitisation of Materials

The Perdana Library is in the process of collecting and digitising materials on our Prime Ministers to be made available via the Foundation's website. The sourcing and digitising of materials will be an ongoing activity of the Foundation. Last year, 1 million pages of documents were digitised. This year we will be focusing on digitising the books in our collection as well as Parliamentary Hansards.

#### Perdana Discourse Series

The Perdana Discourse Series is a one-day semi-structured communication platform where a prominent presenter will speak to on a pre-determined topic, addressing its definition and tracing issues like policies, strategies and possible models used during the tenure of the past Prime Ministers. Panelists will then dissect the keynote address and relate it to their own

viewpoints and experiences. Discussions and issues arising from the discourse will be documented.

#### Research Grants

In line with its objective of stimulating research on Malaysia's past leaders, the Perdana Leadership Foundation offers research grants to qualified scholars to undertake short-term and long-term research on topics like National Unity and Economic Development under the various Prime Ministers.

#### Oral History

In our Oral History series, interviews with personalities who played key roles in the past stewardship and

administration of the country will be conducted and recorded on audio and video.

#### Visits/Resource Centre

The Foundation is open to members of the public and group visits are received regularly. Our library is also a resource centre for researchers, academicians and school-children for information on our past Prime Ministers.

#### Other Leadership Programmes

From time to time, the Foundation collaborates with various institutions and organisations for forums/lectures on leadership history and other aspects of national governance.

## What A World

### Parents Fight Over Which Gang Toddler Should Join

A couple fighting about which gang their 4-year-old toddler should join caused a public disturbance that resulted in the father's arrest.

On Saturday, the man stormed into the Hollywood Video store where his girlfriend worked, threatened to kill her and knocked over several video displays and even a computer.

After he ran out of the store, police were called and the 19-year-old was arrested at his home. His girlfriend told police that they had been arguing about the upbringing of their son and which gang he should belong to. The teen mother is black, while the father is Hispanic.

"They have different ideas on how the baby should be raised. Basically, she said they cannot agree on which gang the baby would 'claim,'" police said.



PERDANA LEADERSHIP FOUNDATION Y.A.Y.A.S.A.N KEPIMPINAN PERDANA

## Perdana Leadership Foundation's

### "Nurturing The Minds Of Future Leaders" Essay Contest 2008

# Write your way to Great Prizes!

If you are a Malaysian student aged between 13 and 21, we want to know your thoughts on youth leadership and the future of our nation. Write and research any of the three topics proposed and stand to drive away a Chevrolet Aveo! Other great prizes await you, including Macbooks, iPods, cash and book vouchers.

So, put on your thinking cap and start writing! Closing date for all entries is 30 JUNE 2008. More information, suggested resources and application forms are available at <http://www.perdana.org.my> or via e-mail: [essay2008@perdana.org.my](mailto:essay2008@perdana.org.my) (attn: Essay Contest Secretariat).

Select any one of the topics below:

1. What is your vision for Malaysia in 2057 when the country celebrates its centennial Independence celebrations?
2. Describe what leadership means to you and the role that youth leaders play in shaping Malaysia's future.
3. Describe the relationship among culture, education and leadership, and the factors that you believe are important in moulding the future leaders of Malaysia.

Your essay can be in either English or Malay; however, English is preferred. All essays must include references. Essay length (excluding footnotes and bibliography) to be 1,500 to 2,000 words. All entries must be accompanied by the official entry form, available from <http://www.perdana.org.my> or via email request ([essay2008@perdana.org.my](mailto:essay2008@perdana.org.my)). Closing date is 30 June 2008. Contest is open to Malaysian citizens only. Grand Prize to Third Prize winners of Perdana Leadership Foundation's 2006-2007 Essay Contest are not eligible to enter.

Prizes to be won:

**Grand Prize x 1**  
Chevrolet Aveo Sedan, RM1,000 cash, RM500 MPH book vouchers, 2-week work placement

The top essay from each category will be considered for the Grand Prize.

**First Prize (x 1 for each lower secondary, upper secondary and tertiary level)**  
Apple Macbook, RM800 cash, RM400 MPH book vouchers, 2-week work placement

**Second Prize (x 1 for each lower secondary, upper secondary and tertiary level)**  
Ipod Nano, RM500 Cash, RM300 MPH book vouchers

**Third Prize (x 1 for each lower secondary, upper secondary and tertiary level)**  
Mobile phone, RM300 cash, RM200 MPH book vouchers

**Fourth Prize (x 5 for each lower secondary, upper secondary and tertiary level)**  
RM200 cash, RM100 MPH book vouchers

**Consolation Prize (x 25 for each lower secondary, upper secondary and tertiary level)**  
RM50 MPH book vouchers

**For school/Institution of Grand Prize Winner**  
PC workstation

**For school/Institution with the most number of entries**  
PC workstation



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