



In cooperation with



Follow the Fleet 2009 – 2010 Essay Competition

Competition Rules & Guidelines

Criteria for Entry: Who can enter?

The Irish Maritime Development Office invites schools to enter **the Follow the Fleet 2009 / 2010 Essay Competition**.

Follow The Fleet Schools Competition is open to all schools **who are registered to take part in the Follow the Fleet project**. Please log onto www.followthefleet.ie and register your school details. You will be provided with a username and password.

This year Follow the Fleet is running an essay competition centered around 3 key themes.

1. Maritime History

Write an historical essay on a famous Maritime Journey of discovery. The theme can include the historical discovery of a new country, trade route or continent.

You can include pictures or photos if choosing this category to support your essay. The pictures or photos will need to include elements of geographical representation and can include pictures / photos of land marks, vegetation or animals pertinent to the Journey.

2. Maritime Trading in Ireland –Life of a Container



Exploration of a trade route from or to Ireland and progress that a container will make. You will need to describe the size of container, what cargo it will carry, the type of ship it will travel on, the port it will depart from and the port it will go to. The nominated trade routes are:

Ireland – Norway

Ireland – Italy

Ireland- France.

You can include pictures or photos if choosing this category to support your essay. The pictures or photos will need to include elements of geographical representation of the two countries and can include pictures / photos of land marks or cargo pertinent to the Journey.

3. Technology and the Master Mariner.

An essay on how technology helps the working life of a ships captain. You can include details on the types of technology used aboard ship including:

- **Radar**
- **Satellite Tracking – GPS**
- **Telecommunications**

Also, how technology has an impact on the safety at sea and the life of the crew at sea. You can include pictures or photos if choosing this category to support your essay. The pictures or photos will need to be representative of the technology used on board ship.

You are free to choose a topic from the 3 listed above.

How long should the essay be?

Essays should be no more than **500 words**, excluding references. (Number of words should be stated on the entry form). In addition:

- Essays must be an original piece of work on one of the topics listed
- Entries can be hand written or word-processed, with double line-spacing
- Each page should be numbered
- The essay title should be at the top of every page
- Pictures & photo's can be included as part of the essay
- Clearly label the Pictures & photo's included
- Clearly label the school and class name and ensure your entry form has all the details we need to identify you.
- Your essay must be accompanied by the entry form, which must be signed by your teacher to indicate the essay is your own work.
- References – please list any books, articles or online sources you might use
- Quotations should also be acknowledged in your references.



What is the closing date?

The closing date for the essay competition is 5th February 2010.

Entries should be submitted in print by a teacher at your school to:

1. Verify that you are **registered to the Follow the Fleet program**
2. Clearly nominate topic
3. Write your essay, keeping in mind the maximum essay length and our guidance on writing
4. Add your references at the end of the essay
5. Complete the entry form.

Guidance on writing your Follow the Fleet Essay

- Use your own words!
- Any references should be the end of the essay
- Set the tone -The art of successful essay writing is to set the tone in the first two paragraphs with a statement that captures the essential interest of the subject.
- Be lively -Set out to engage from the start. Imagine yourself writing a broadcast report for the Follow the Fleet YouTube channel.
- Ensure that your essay addresses the title completely.
- Aim for five paragraphs. The first paragraph is the introduction that sets the stage, The central three paragraphs will flesh out the topic the class have chosen , The final paragraph should be a summation of the essay.
- Internet resources, There are a number of web sites with valuable suggestions on how to write a good essay, for example, you can use some information from the Captains Logs on line and also the content form the lesson plans on the Follow the Fleet website.

Please send essay entry forms to:

Follow the Fleet 2009 – 2010 Essay Competition

Irish Maritime Development Office

80 Harcourt Street

Dublin 2





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Competition Prizes

We are offering four amazing prizes for the winning entries which will be judged by a panel headed by RTE Marine Correspondent Mr Tom McSweeney. The winning class will have their script read into a narrative, voiced by actor Aidan Dooley of 'Tom Crean – Arctic Explorer' fame. This will be hosted on the IMDO Follow the Fleet YouTube Channel. The winning class will also be given the opportunity to experience the thrill of commanding their own ship at sea from the safety of the world class ship simulators at the National Maritime College in Cork.

1st prize

The overall winning class and class teacher as judged by the *Follow the Fleet* essay panel will receive

- A laptop for the winning classes' teacher
- 2 handheld plug in and play movie cameras for the winning class.
- Animation and narration of the winning story



- A class visit to the National Maritime College of Ireland in Cork where the class will be shown the facilities and find out what it is like to be on the bridge of a ship in the NMCI state of the art Ship Simulators.

Runner-up Category Prizes

The three runner up schools will receive from each themed category will receive a handheld plug in and play movie camera and their essay will be animated and narrated by actor Aidan Dooley of 'Tom Crean – Artic Explorer' fame and hosted on our *Follow the Fleet* You Tube Channel.

Home Schools Prize.

There will also be a prize for registered home school users of the *Follow the Fleet* programme. The prize is a handheld plug in and play movie camera and their essay will be narrated by actor Aidan Dooley of 'Tom Crean – Artic Explorer' fame and hosted on our *Follow the Fleet* You Tube Channel.

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