



VITness THINK TANK 2015

Theme for policy drafting:

“Making an Indian metro city a clean, vibrant and self-sufficient city in terms of water, electricity, infrastructure, parks, cultural centres, migrant population and labour without compromising the environmental quality.”

- ❖ Any one or all the aspects can be taken
- ❖ Any one Indian metro city shall be taken
- ❖ Policy has to accommodate all these concerns

Rules for Public Policy Competition:

1. ELIGIBILITY FOR PARTICIPATION

- 1.1 The competition is open to all students.
- 1.2 A team should comprise of three students.
- 1.3 Recognised institutions/ college/ universities shall be entitled to send THREE teams to the competition.
- 1.4 No participants can be part of more than one team.

2. CLARIFICATIONS TO THE THEME

- 2.1 Teams may request for clarification via email to vitnessttc15@gmail.com
- 2.2 Teams can also contact list of persons mentioned at the end.

3. ANONYMITY OF TEAMS

3.1 Teams shall not reveal their identity in any form except by means of the team code allotted to them during the competition.

3.2 The Written Submission shall have the Team and University name ONLY on the cover page and NO WHERE ELSE throughout the submission.

3.3 Any material presented to the panel should be devoid of any identification marks or seal of the team.

3.4 Any violation of the above rules shall attract severe penalty as determined by the Organising Committee.

4. GENERAL RULES:

4.1 A policy should be drafted for the theme given.

4.2 The teams will have to submit their soft copy of the POLICY DRAFT by **1st October 2015** by 23:59 Hours to **vitnessttc15@gmail.com**. Along with the draft the teams should attach a document which gives the complete details of the team including the contact info.

4.3 The selection of teams will be done by the jury panel.

4.4 The participants of shortlisted teams will be informed by E-Mail or by Mobile by **5th October 2015** and the participants should have to send the reply confirming the participation.

4.5 Any submission after 23:59 hrs of 1st October 2015, will receive negative marking.

4.6 Any policy draft that is selected but not presented, shall not qualify for any awards

4.7 Decision of the judges shall be treated as final and binding on all and cannot be contested.

4.8 Plagiarism is strongly discouraged.

5. REGISTRATION

5.1 Each team shall complete the registration within the stipulated time.

5.2 The registration fee for a policy draft is Rs.1000/-

5.3 A Demand Draft drawn in the name of “**VIT University**” payable at **Chennai**, along with the team details, should be sent through a post. The post must be received on or before **October 1, 2015**.

Postal Address: **VIT Law School,
VIT University,
Vandalur-Kelambakkam road,
Chennai - 600127.**

6. SELECTION PROCESS AND ORAL SUBMISSIONS

6.1 The selected policy drafts should be presented during the event i.e., on **October 18, 2015**

6.2 Hard copies of the same are to be submitted before presentation.

6.3 The teams will get 15 minutes to present their policies.

6.4 Two members from each team will be allowed to present their policy.

6.5 The presentation will be followed by a question and answer session.

6.6 The panel of judges will ask the presenters questions regarding the policy submitted that will last for five minutes.

6.7 Then the audience will get five minutes for asking the presenters questions regarding the policy presented.

6.8 The participants may also present their papers in MS-Power Point (ppt) format.

6.9 Violation of any rule can result in rejection of policy.

7. GUIDELINES FOR DRAFTING A POLICY

In drafting the policy, the following important guiding principles must be adhered to:

7.1 The policy should be structured, drafted and presented in a way that makes the policy understandable and easy to read and interpret.

- 7.2 The content of the policy should be concise, to the point; action orientated and should have a logical and coherent structure. The structure of the policy can be tested by asking whether it is simple to locate topics or subjects in the text and move from one topic to another. Organisation within the policy can be achieved by putting related material together, by putting the most important ideas first and the less important ideas, for example, unusual cases and procedural detail, later.
- 7.3 Plain language must be used that can be readily understood by the targeted audience. A policy that is easy to understand is less likely to result in dispute and also assists those involved in implementing the policy. However, the policy should not be over-simplified to the point that it becomes legally uncertain. Thus the objective should be to produce a policy that is both easily read and understood and legally and practically effective in achieving the desired policy objectives. There are many ways in which a policy can be stated in a simple, accurate and unambiguous manner: by means of purpose clauses, incorporating key or basic concepts and definitions besides explanatory provisions and examples.
- 7.4 The policy, content and language should be used in ways that promote effective communication. This can be achieved by using clear and unambiguous language. It is also suggested that the active instead of the passive voice and everyday words should be used.
- 7.5 The policy must be clear as to whether any matter or action prescribed in the policy is mandatory or discretionary by using the words “must” or “may”.
- 7.6 Gender-neutral language should be used, for example: “chairperson” rather than “chairman”.
- 7.7 Policies should be written in the present active tense.
- 7.8 The policy presentation or layout should be used to promote effective communication. Presentation techniques include the use of headings, table of provisions, page headers, white space and typefaces that help readability.
- 7.9 Context of the policy should be paraphrased and numbered numerically.
- 7.10 Figures should be used in the numbering of divisions and subdivisions.

7.11 Letters may be added to figures if a revised policy inserts a new paragraph between existing paragraphs that use figures, e.g. between paragraph 19 and paragraph 20, the paragraph inserted will be paragraph 19(a).

7.12 The policy document should be drafted in English.

7.13 The policies drafted should be in accordance with the existing Indian Legal Framework.

7.14 Authorities should be cited to substantiate the policy drafted.

POLICY FORMULATION PROCESS:

The draft submitted should contain the following phases:

- Initiation
 - Issue identification
 - Policy tools
 - Policy analysis
- Generation
 - Policy formulation
 - Decision making
 - Policy drafting
- Implementation
 - Policy implementation

FORMAT:

- Word limit- The draft should not exceed 3000 words
- Font style for text: Times New Roman.
- Font size for text: 12 points.
- Font size for headings: 18 points.

- Font size for sub-headings: 14 points.

ADJUDICATION:

The participants will be marked by the judges for the following:

1. Policy drafted:

- Abidance by the guidelines specified
- Legal, social, political and economical feasibility of the policy
- Precision of policy formulation taking into account of existing laws and legal system

2. Oral submission:

- Ingenuity and persuasiveness
- Usage of authorities
- Response to questions
- Manner and method
- Research Inputs
- Clarity of thought

The organizers reserve the right to change/update the rules of the contest at any point of time and will do their best to inform to participants of the same. However, it is ultimately the responsibility of the teams to keep themselves updated.

PRIZES

- Winning team : Rs.10,000
- Runner's up team : Rs. 8,000
- Mr./Ms. Think Tanker : Rs. 2,000

DRESS CODE: Western formals

CONTACT DETAILS OF THE ORGANISERS:

Coordinators

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