

#testimonial

ACTT: You placed third in the 2013 and 2014 competitions. Was that your motivation for deciding to participate in ACTT's 5th National Essay Competition?

My motivation stems from my undying love of success, so the placement attained in the 2013 and 2014 essay competitions were my incentive to keep on trying. Believe it or not, it was never about the prize but the satisfaction of seeing the look on my parents' faces when I told them I won.



ACTT: How did you benefit from participating in the Essay Competition?

Though it may seem a little benefit to one person, winning this essay competition has boosted my self-image. I no longer use the words "I can't" as often as I did before because it has shown me that I can, in fact, excel at anything I want; persistence is the key. In addition, my research ability has increased tremendously as I am now able to take a topic I know little to nothing about and expand on it argumentatively.

ACTT: How did you prepare to write on the topic for this year's Essay competition?

This year's competition preparation began late for me. In 2013 I periodically checked ACTT's website for updates, but this year I forgot about it. When the page accidentally opened, I noticed the August start date – which was both strange and a little saddening. I initially decided not to write, until my colleagues convinced me it wasn't too late.

I thoroughly research the theme first and pick out key aspects of the case study provided, to ensure I have a proper understanding of what I am about to write. Once I am satisfied that I have collected the necessary data, the next step is brainstorming. Brainstorming (or rather, procrastination) is a key part in writing for me; I use it to explore the various avenues I can take to complete the essay.

ACTT: What difference(s) did you notice in the Competition over the three (3) years?

Over the three years that I have participated in the competition, the case studies provided have continuously outlined the issues that higher education learning institutions face. Coupled with the ever expanding themes, each year brings a new opportunity to learn something new.

ACTT: What would you say to someone to encourage them to participate in ACTT's 6th National Essay Competition in 2016?

Think about the benefits you would gain from exploring a theme: you gain critical thinking, analytical and organisational skills; you dive into the unknown and come up with so much information on the accreditation and registration processes, as well as many other small details that students tend to overlook when applying for a higher education institution. You see the world differently. You are also able to explore the knowledge and history of several higher education institutions. You see the errors and the growth gained over the years by these institutions. You learn that awesome wasn't built in a day.