

**WINNER PLUS GROUP AWARD FOR NON-FICTION GROUP 3**  
**HKYWA 2021**

Student: Tsz Yu Poon,  
School: St. Joseph's College

Questions:

1. Please share with us a few benefits of entering a writing competition.

Participating in a writing competition is an enjoyment process to practice the art of writing. It is a great way to hone my skills in brainstorming for ideas and researching for a new topic. For example, I wouldn't have thought of researching on Huang Shan if it wasn't for this competition. I was also surprised to find out the two species of shrew that were newly identified by biologists only a few months before the competition. This has given me a pair of new lenses to see this magnificent mountain.

I am also more motivated to proofread and edit my writing, in the end it helps me identify my areas of improvement. Constructive feedback from the judges also helps to strength my skills. Nevertheless, receiving positive feedback from others is always encouraging and rewarding.

2. Describe how you felt when it was announced that you were the winner of Non-fiction: Group 3?

At first, when my friends sent me a link to a YouTube video about me winning the competition, I didn't believe them and thought it was just a prank. It was only when I heard Mr. Nury Vittachi announced my name that I was finally convinced! I jumped for joy! My two weeks of relentless research, drafting and editing was finally paid off. All in all, this was an amazing experience, and I am looking forward to the HKYWA 2022.

3. How did you prepare for HKYWA 2021?

At first, I tried recalling the interesting memories I had during my visit to the magnificent mountain by looking at the photos of Huang Shan. Then I surfed the

Internet to find more information about the factual details and unique features of it. In the end, I used a mind map to organize the bits and pieces together into an essay. Lastly, I jazzed up the writing by adding more descriptive details to make more fun to read.

4. Do you have any writing tips for students looking to enter this year's competition? (1 about research, 1 about writing skills)

Firstly, it is important to dig deep in your research to find interesting details. Go beyond what you will actually need for the essay. Read up about different aspects of your topic from the past to present and future. Jot down everything you think it may be useful and then try to come up with a logical story to switch them up.

As for the writing skills, the technique of “show-not-tell” is always the golden rule no matter it's for a fiction or non-fiction writing. Instead of telling readers what is there on Huang Shan, it's more fun to describe the scenery so that they can paint the mental picture for themselves. Get them in your shoes and see the world through your words. This will make your writing more immersive for readers.