

## WORLD DNA DAY ESSAY COMPETITION 2025

Medicover Genetics, Cyprus offers a unique opportunity to high school students (16-19 years old) to participate in an essay competition that is dedicated to World DNA Day, celebrated on the 25<sup>th</sup> of April. The topic of the essay is:

**“The discovery of DNA has led to significant advancements in different fields of health and well-being. One example is the development of genetic tests for carrier screening in the field of reproductive medicine.**

**Describe the importance of carrier screening focusing on its benefits for people planning to have children.”**

The scope of this initiative is to raise awareness about understanding the importance of DNA as well as carrier screening for people who are planning to have a family.

### Participation:

Eligible students who can participate in the competition are 16-19 years of age. Each essay must be written by one student.

### Description of the Competition:

The World DNA Day essay competition requires the generation of an essay in the format of a blog with maximum of 650-700 words (references are not included in the word count). Entries must be either in Greek or English language. The goal is to inform the public on how DNA genetic testing can be helpful in carrier screening and reproductive medicine. Entries are encouraged to give specific examples of inherited genetic mutations that might be identified through carrier screening and can potentially affect their children by causing a disease. The topic has to be described with clarity, avoiding the use of complex scientific language, as the blog will be addressed directly to the general public who might not have a scientific background. The use of images to support the blog is also encouraged.

Please note that all valid entries may be used at a later stage on the social media of Medicover Genetics. For this reason, by participating in the competition, the participants provide the rights to display and publicise the essays or part of them.

### Awards

Medicover Genetics will offer a prize award to the first and second-best entries. The winners will be announced on our website on the 25<sup>th</sup> of April 2025. The prize for the first and second place will be 200 and 100 euros respectively. Additionally, the two students will have the opportunity to visit our state-of-the-art laboratories in Cyprus on a specified day. All the participating schools will receive an announcement of the winners on the 24<sup>th</sup> of April 2025.

### Marking and evaluation criteria

All the entries will be marked and evaluated by a group of experts in the field of DNA and genetics from Medicover Genetics. The marking criteria will be based on different aspects including:



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- 1) The accuracy and validity of the information used (the use of references is strongly encouraged).
- 2) The knowledge and understanding of the topic.
- 3) The structure of the blog, the presentation of the topic as well as the correct technical vocabulary, grammar, and syntax.

**Participation Guidelines:**

- 1) The entries must be in pdf format, with a maximum of **650-700 words** (excluding references). The students must state in the pdf file their full name as well as the name of the school.
- 2) The teachers of the students must submit the entries to the following email: [scientificcommunications-cy@medicover.com](mailto:scientificcommunications-cy@medicover.com). A confirmation email of the entries will be sent upon receipt.
- 3) The final date of submission is the **11th of April 2025**.
- 4) The language of participation is **Greek or English**.

**For more information and further enquiries please contact us at:**

[scientificcommunications-cy@medicover.com](mailto:scientificcommunications-cy@medicover.com) or tel: **22 266 888** (Medicover Genetics reception desk, asking to connect with the Marketing and Communications Department)

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