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| Are you concerned about young people not voting? The association of former members of parliament is CONCERNED and so is running its 3rd essay competition for Year 12 and 13 STUDENTS to get Your opinions on how to increase young people’s participation in our democratic process.The competition aims to get you thinking about how our system of government works, the relationship between Crown and the House of Representatives and the importance of the democratic process.**The topic** this year for senior secondary school students’ consideration is;*“Many young New Zealanders are not voting. Despite diverse conditions and experiences of young people, male and female, from different countries and ethnic and religious groups, there is a general lack of participation of all groups in New Zealand’s democratic process. Is this because of a lack of understanding of the roles of the Crown and Parliament or are there other barriers to participation? What innovative ideas and leadership techniques do you think would lead to increased participation of these diverse groups of young New Zealanders in our democratic process?”***The prize** for the winner of the essay competition is $1000 as well as a trip to Parliament for the day which includes a Parliamentary tour, watching MPs in action in the House, sitting in on a select committee hearing, meeting your local MP and the Speaker of the House and then being presented with your prize.  |
|  “One of the penalties for refusing to participate in politics is that you end up by being governed by your inferiors” Plato (428/27 B.C. – 348 B.C.) |  |
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| Useful websites:[Parliament](https://www.parliament.nz/en/)[Electoral Commission](http://www.elections.org.nz/)Entries should be sent to: former.members@clear.net.nz by Friday 5th May 2017.Essays should be no longer than 1500 words |
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| The association of former members of the parliament of new zealand |

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