

The Competition.

Teachers are requested to run a competition for junior science students. Teachers will be provided with a compendium of web sites, which detail various aspects of the Transit of Venus.

The task is to have students' research and write an essay of no more than 1000 words about some aspect of the Transit of Venus.

The essay can be on any aspect of the Transit of Venus and could include, but is not limited to the following:

- Planetary motion.
- Calculation of an Astronomical Unit.
- Historical Transit of Venus campaigns.
- When and where will the next Transit of Venus occur?
- What will the Transit of Venus look like?
- How to safely view the Transit of Venus.
- Proposed school activities surrounding the Transit of Venus.

The essay should be written in a journalistic style.

Teachers should choose the best one or two essays and submit them to graemerush@bigpond.com by 30/3/2012.

The intention is to publish the winning entries, in part or in whole, in local and State newspapers and journals. Consequently, approval for publication will need to be provided with the entry.

The entries will be judged by a selection panel consisting of a Senior Teacher, a member of the Transit of Venus Project Management Committee and the Project Media Consultant.

The criteria against which entries will be judged will include:

- Suitability for publication in a newspaper or journal
- Level of general interest
- Accuracy of information presented
- Level of enthusiasm evident in the writing of the article

The winning entries for each State or Territory will win a free Solarscope for their school, and a certificate for themselves. Highly commended entries will receive a certificate, and the opportunity for their school to purchase a Solarscope at a highly subsidized rate.

Timelines for Competition.

Announce Competition details February 2012

Entries Close 30/3/2012

Judging early April 2012

Announcement of winners end April 2012

Delivery of Solarscopes and certificates early May 2012

Solarscopes can be ordered by schools during February and March 2012

Delivery of Solarscopes to schools will occur in early May 2012.

Certificates and Solarscopes will be presented to winning students and schools by representatives of the funding bodies. These representatives will promote not only the Transit of Venus project, but also their profession to the students.