



Healing Hands Essay Competition



We are pleased to announce the annual Healing Hands Essay Competition for 2026, which encourages young people to share their views on becoming a doctor in Qatar. Four lucky winners will receive valuable prizes.

This year's topic is "The Humanities and the Future of Medicine in an Age of AI"

Artificial intelligence is rapidly transforming medicine. Algorithms can now analyze symptoms, recognize patterns, and even suggest diagnoses with remarkable accuracy. If AI can increasingly determine what disease a patient has, what role remains for the human doctor?

Some argue that medicine is more than data processing. As Bleakly, Eichbaum, and Ellaway (2024) write: "The heart of clinical encounters is still about flesh-and-blood exchanges between doctors and patients, and between doctors and other health professionals working with and around their patients. At the heart of this clinical work, often carried out under conditions of ambiguity and uncertainty, is the necessary expression, exchange, and regulation of emotions and feelings guided by the senses, and the exercise of the most mysterious of human qualities: intuition and imagination (typically expressed as forms of creativity)." ⁽¹⁾

Even in a technologically advanced world, clinical care involves emotion, interpretation, and creativity. It requires doctors to respond to uncertainty, complexity, and the lived experiences of patients.

In this essay, consider the role of the humanities—such as literature, philosophy, history, ethics, or the arts—in shaping future physicians. If machines can diagnose patients, what remains distinctly human in medicine? How might empathy, reflective practice, dialectical reasoning, and imagination matter in an AI-driven healthcare system? Can algorithms replace intuition? Should they?

Write an 800-word essay to present a clear thesis and support it with careful reasoning and examples. Your essay should explore what kind of education best prepares doctors not only to diagnose disease but also to care for human beings.

Please also submit a two-minute video presenting your thesis and explaining how you planned your essay. (Please make sure that the video upload is no more than 150 megabytes).

Deadline extended: May 31, 2026

General Terms and Conditions

- Competition is open to all Qatari nationals currently enrolled in high schools
- The essay must be the student's original work and written in English
- The applicants need to complete an online application to submit their essays
- Proof of nationality and latest school report are needed.

For more information visit our website at: <https://qatar-weill.cornell.edu/>

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