SOUTH AFRICA / LESOTHO / MALAWI

# Jeunes reporters 2027

## Competition rules

### Article 1 – About the competition

The *Jeunes reporters* competition invites young people in South Africa, Lesotho and Malawi to write an original article in French about a topic that matters to them or reflects life in their community. The competition gives participants an opportunity to develop their French writing skills, discover how journalists work and share local stories with French-speaking readers around the world.

The competition is organised by the French Embassy in South Africa, Lesotho and Malawi, in partnership with the Alliance Française network in all three countries and the Johannesburg and Cape Town editions of *Lepetitjournal.com*.

### Article 2 – Eligibility and entry categories

You must be **aged 16 to 30 inclusive on the submission deadline** and **live and study or attend classes in South Africa, Lesotho or Malawi**, in line with your entry category.

1. **Alliance Française learners** – You are learning French at a participating Alliance Française.
2. **University students** – You are enrolled at a university. Students from any field of study may enter.
3. **Secondary school learners** – You are enrolled at a secondary school.
4. **French first-language speakers** – If French is one of your first languages and you attend a secondary school or university, you must enter this category.

If you are under 18, you must include permission from a parent or legal guardian. Entries are individual. You may submit one original article, and you must be its sole author.

SUBMISSION DEADLINE

**Monday 1 March 2027 at 23:59 (local time, UTC+2)**

JEUNES REPORTERS 2027

# Submitting your article

## Article 3 – How to enter

Submit your complete entry through the competition form by **23:59 on Monday 1 March 2027 (local time, UTC+2)**. Include the following in a single submission.

- Your completed application and a short video explaining why you would like to take part. Follow the video instructions in the form.
- A copy of a valid official identity document showing your name and date of birth.
- Proof of enrolment at the participating Alliance Française, university or secondary school listed in your application.
- A self-assessment of your French level. You may attach a language certificate or a letter from your institution if you have one.
- Your article in French, prepared using the editorial template.
- Permission from a parent or legal guardian if you are under 18.

Incomplete or late entries will be ineligible.

## Article 4 – Article topics

Choose a topic connected to life in South Africa, Lesotho or Malawi. Present a personal, well-researched perspective and give readers enough context to understand the story, even if they are unfamiliar with the region.

Possible themes include young people's perspectives, inspiring profiles, reports from the field, and articles about events, heritage or places to visit.

## Article 5 – Editorial requirements

Follow the editorial template available on the competition announcement page. Give your article a clear title, check your facts and sources, and distinguish fact from opinion. Quote people accurately and seek their permission where appropriate. Avoid topics relating to politics or religion, and respect journalistic ethics, copyright and image rights.

Write the article yourself. AI tools may not be used to write it. A spellchecker is permitted. Articles that fail to meet the essential requirements of the editorial template will be ineligible for selection.

## Article 6 – Selection and results

The participating Alliances Françaises and *Lepetitjournal.com* will review the entries. The selection panel considers the topic's relevance to an international French-speaking readership, originality, reporting and source verification, clarity of the French, compliance with the template and suitability for publication. It also takes each candidate's language background into account. The panel's decisions are final.

The panel will select ten articles. Results will be announced and prizes awarded on **Saturday 13 March 2027** during the **Festival de la Francophonie in Pretoria**.

# Prizes and publication

## Article 7 – Prizes and travel

The competition offers **three language study trips to France** in total. Each trip includes transport, travel insurance, French language tuition, visits, accommodation and meals. Winners are responsible for any visa fees.

Winners travelling to France must hold a valid passport and complete the applicable travel formalities. Winners under 18 must also have permission to travel from a parent or legal guardian. The organisers will confirm the dates, destination, duration and practical arrangements for the trips.

## Article 8 – Copyright and publication

You retain copyright in your article. If you use material created by someone else, including photographs or illustrations, you must credit the creator or source and obtain any necessary permission.

The selection panel will receive entries for assessment. The ten selected articles may be published in the Johannesburg and Cape Town editions of *Lepetitjournal.com*, subject to final editorial approval and the author's permission. The organisers will ask separately for permission to display selected articles as posters at participating Alliances Françaises. Each permission will specify where and for how long the work may be used. For authors under 18, permission from a parent or legal guardian will also be requested.

The editors may ask for corrections or clarification before publication. Editorial changes will respect the author's meaning and intent. Published articles will credit the author by name unless the editorial team accepts a justified request for a different byline or anonymity.

## Article 9 – Personal information and newsletter

The organisers use the personal information collected through the form to administer the competition, verify eligibility and contact entrants. The free *Lepetitjournal.com* newsletter is optional. You can subscribe by ticking the separate box in the form. Your choice will have no effect on your entry.

## Article 10 – Changes and enquiries

The organisers may clarify practical arrangements or amend the schedule if exceptional circumstances require it. They will inform participants of any changes.

**French Embassy** – johann.robinet@diplomatie.gouv.fr

**French Institute of South Africa** – jerome.cosnard@frenchinstitute.org.za

**Lepetitjournal.com** – philippe.petit@petitjournal.onmicrosoft.com

## Article 11 – Acceptance of the rules

By submitting an entry, you confirm that you have read, understood and accepted these competition rules.