



YOUNG SINGAPOREANS CONFERENCE 2026: FUTURE MAKERS

PARTICIPANT SELECTION WRITING TASK

(I) ABOUT THIS TASK

All nominees for the Young Singaporeans Conference 2026 are invited to make a submission. Participants will be grouped into 5 groups to work together on a policy brief with mentoring from IPS Resource Persons, from 12 September – 30 October 2026.

We are also seeking 25–30 young Singaporean leaders aged 18–35 to serve as **Youth Leaders**. Youth Leaders will attend a full-day Pre-Conference Engagement on **12 September 2026**, co-lead breakout discussions at the Conference on **14 October 2026**, and contribute to policy briefs on Singapore's low total fertility rate and the conditions for family formation. You will be able to indicate your participation preference (Youth Leader or Participant) in the submission form.

This selection task is designed to help us understand how you think about complex social issues, how you engage with perspectives you may disagree with, and how you communicate your reasoning. There are no right or wrong answers. We are looking for thoughtful, honest, and well-reasoned responses.

(II) WHAT YOU NEED TO DO: *RESPONSE TO OP-ED HEADLINE*

The task should take approximately 60–90 minutes to complete.

In section (III) below are five domains central to the conference theme, each with two fictional op-ed headlines, written deliberately to surface real tensions in public discourse on family formation in Singapore.

Choose ONE headline from ONE domain that interests you most.

Write a response using the headings below:

Response to Claim (no more than 400 words)

You may agree, disagree, partially agree, reframe the issue, or challenge the headline's assumptions, and explain your reasons.

Intervention (no more than 400 words)

Propose one practical intervention that could address the issue(s) surfaced in your response. You may choose to write it in point-form. Include:

- Target group: Who it is for
- Mechanism: How it works to address the issue (e.g. how it changes behaviour or reduces opportunity costs)
- Owner(s): Who would implement it
- Risks/trade-offs: Possible downsides or constraints
- References: Cite credible sources to support your proposal

Domain Preferences

You will be assigned to one domain based on your preference as indicated in the Submission Form, your creative submission, and the need to ensure balanced representation across all five domains.

(III) DOMAINS AND OP-ED HEADLINES

Domain 1: Relationships and Romance

- **1A.** *“Dating Apps Won’t Help if Young Singaporeans Continue to Have Unrealistic Expectations of Their Partners”*
- **1B.** *“In a Burnt-Out Generation, Dating Can Feel Like Another Job”*

Domain 2: Housing, Setting Up Home of Own

- **2A.** *“Housing Costs are Pricing Young Singaporeans Out of Family Life”*
- **2A.** *“BTO Waiting Times Aren’t the Real Problem. The Real Problem Is That We’ve Made Homeownership a Precondition for Family Formation”*

Domain 3: Career and Personal Aspirations

- **3A.** *“Employers Don’t Owe You Work-Life Balance. If You Want Kids, You Have to Be Willing to Sacrifice Career Ambition”*
- **3B.** *“The Real Reason Young Singaporeans Aren’t Having Kids Isn’t Cost. It’s That They’d Rather Spend on Themselves”*

Domain 4: Caregiving and Other Family Duties

- **4A.** *“Flexible Work Arrangements Mean Little if Parents Cannot Use Them Without Career Penalty”*

- **4B.** *“Dual-Income Households Have Not Ended the Unequal Burden of Care”*

Domain 5: Positive Parenting Experiences

- **5A.** *“The Best Thing Singapore Could Do for Parents Is Make Childhood Less Stressful but That Means Accepting That Our Kids Might be Less ‘Competitive’”*
- **5B.** *“Many Young Singaporeans Do Not Fear Having Children So Much as Repeating the Parenting They Grew Up With”*

We look forward to reading your submission.

