



10 May 2022

**To:** Principals, Subject Advisors, Parents, Teachers, Departmental Heads, and Library Information Services (LIS) Coordinators.

**Topic:** Activating curriculum recovery at schools and in homes through learners' reading competition

**Message Objectives:**

- To promote reading for meaning through learner competition.
- To encourage reading during the Youth month

On 16 June 1976, black high school students led demonstrations in Soweto to protest the compulsory use of Afrikaans as a medium of instruction in black schools. The brutal apartheid police force started shooting at the students and many were shot and killed. We remember this through using 16 June every year as a day to celebrate, honour and pay tribute to the Soweto Uprising students of 1976, for their courage and sacrifice in defying the oppressive apartheid regime; and to recognise the role of the youth in the liberation of South Africa. The Soweto uprising taught us many lessons. For example, learners lost massive curriculum coverage due to not attending classes regularly. Schools were forced to establish catch-up programmes so they could administer exams at the end of the year.

The National Reading Coalition (NRC), which was championed by the Department of Basic Education (DBE) and the National Education Collaboration Trust (NECT) has embarked on an initiative of accelerating the pace of curriculum recovery by encouraging learners in primary schools and secondary schools to participate in an essay writing competition in their mother tongue. As one slogan depicts that "good readers are good leaders", one can certainly claim that learners with good writing ability can respond better to learning across the curriculum.

By joining the competition, learners will not only enhance their writing skills but stand a chance of winning prizes such as tablets and data to join catch-up programs and access learning materials from various websites. Other prizes to be won include book vouchers and t-shirts.

For more information, learners can log in to [www.nrc.org.za](http://www.nrc.org.za)

From: Bailey Nkuna [bailey@nect.org.za](mailto:bailey@nect.org.za).