



Guide for participants

Guidelines and assessment criteria for the Achille Mbembe Challenge

What do we expect from your submission?

- Contact A clear choice: Choose one case that appeals to you.
- Accessible language: Explain complex ideas in understandable language.
- Concrete elaboration: No vague ideas, but detailed proposals.
- Your own voice: Show your perspective, rather than just repeating theories.
- Appropriate medium: Choose a form that suits your idea (video, app, campaign, artwork, etc.).

What do we want to see?

- Case That you understand Mbembes' thinking and apply it to current problems.
- That you think about justice and equality.
- That you are creative in your solution.
- That your proposal is realistic and feasible.
- That you pay attention to both form and content.

Total: 100 points + a maximum of 5 bonus points per case study.



What are you going to make?

Case 1: Climate justice - How far should you go for the climate?

Case 2: Restitution of looted art - Who actually owns museum pieces?

Case 3: Digital Colonisation - Is There an Alternative to Big Tech?

What can you submit?

- Describe Video (max. 5 minutes)
- App or website (prototype)
- Artwork (physical or digital)
- Campaign (with materials and strategy)
- Product (design with explanation)
- Advice for museum, government or organisation
- Podcast (max. 5 minutes)
- Game or interactive experience
- Performance or ritual (documented)
- Other creative form (consultation in advance)

What do you need to submit?

- Your main work - In the form you have chosen
- Explanation (max. 1,000 words) with:
- A brief description of your idea

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- Answers to the reflection questions
- References (if necessary)
- Visual summary - One image that summarises your idea



Questions for reflection (answer these in your explanation)

For everyone

- Your interpretation of Mbembe:
What do you understand by “the right to breathe”? How has this concept influenced your thinking?
- Origin of your idea:
When did you know what you wanted to create? Describe your thought process.
- Personal motivation:
Why does this topic resonate with you? What makes you want to put your energy into this?

Per case (choose your case)

- Case 1: Where do you draw the line between necessary resistance and unacceptable behaviour?
- Case 2: How would you react if something valuable were taken from your family and not returned?
- Case 3: What do you think are the most significant problems with how technology companies operate today?

About your solution

- Effectiveness - Why would your approach actually make a difference?
- Challenges - What obstacles did you encounter during development?
- Future prospects - What will the world look like if your solution is successfully implemented?

Writing guidelines: Max 100 words per question, use concrete examples, and be authentic.



Practical tips

Planning and realisation

- Effectiveness - Test your idea - Discuss it with others.
- Choose a format that suits you - Are you better with words, images, or technology?
- Make it concrete - Abstract ideas are difficult to assess.
- Think about your audience - Make sure your message gets across.
- Keep it simple - One strong idea works better than five half-baked ones.
- Don't forget the details - Spelling mistakes and sloppiness stand out.



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Presentation

- Make it accessible - Even someone who doesn't know Mbembe should be able to understand your idea.
- Tell a story - Why is this important? How does it work? What will change?
- Be authentic - Let your own voice be heard
- Make it visual - People remember what they see better

Technical requirements

- Digital files: PDF, MP4, JPG/PNG, or working links
- Physical works: photograph or film professionally
- Max 100MB per file
- Apps/websites: provide a working demo



Frequently asked questions

- Do I need to know all of Mbembe's theories? No. Understand the core concepts and apply the relevant ones.
- Can I collaborate with others? Yes, teams of up to 4 people. List all names.
- Does my solution have to be feasible? It should sound realistic, but it doesn't have to be ready for implementation tomorrow.
- Can I combine multiple cases? Focus on one case for a strong submission. Making connections is fine, but choose one main theme to focus on.
- How long should my explanation be? Short and to the point. Maximum 2 A4 pages, but it can be shorter if your point is clear.



Submission

- Deadline: 13 October
- How: Instruction will follow for your uploads
- Contact: If you have any questions, send an email to info@spinozalens.nl
- Remember: We are not looking for perfect academic papers, but creative ideas that can make a difference. Dare to experiment, make mistakes, and show what moves you. The jury wants to be surprised by your unique perspective on these important issues.

Good luck!