

Student Writers Showcase

Grades 5-8

Category Descriptions

- **Expository Essay**
The presentation of important information about a specific topic of personal interest that includes the writer's value judgment on an issue accompanied by a detailed explanation. 300 – 1500 words.
- **Personal Narrative**
Original nonfiction writing that portrays an incident in the writer's life. It incorporates effective narrative and descriptive techniques into an autobiographical incident focusing on the following: point of view (first or third person), setting, character development, observations, and descriptions of the event. Up to 1500 words.
- **Children's Story**
A short story written expressly for the enjoyment of young children; not necessarily just a short story about children. Up to 1,000 words.
- **Poetry**
One poem in any form of verse. No restrictions on number of words.
- **Short Story**
An original fictional narrative that incorporates setting, plot development, and characterization. The short story may include science fiction or fantasy elements and mystery. Up to 1500 words.
- **Song Lyrics**
The words for one song. Should include elements characteristics of a song (chorus, verses, repeats, etc.); not a category for poems. Do not send audiotapes. No restriction on number of words.
- **Sports Writing**
Fiction or non-fiction writing about a sport, sports event or sports figure; format similar to an essay or newspaper feature or editorial. 300-1,500 words.
- **Snapshot Writing**
A short, descriptive, sketch that captures an event, a moment in time, or a personal reflection much like a photograph captures the same elements in a visual format. Up to 250 words.