



## Competition Rules

1. The competition is open to students currently enrolled in grades 7<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>.
2. Entries should consist of original pieces of writing:
  - a. Poetry
  - b. Short Stories
  - c. Essays
3. Acceptable format of entries:
  - a. Typed using Microsoft Word or another word processor
  - b. Double-spaced on one side of paper only. No double-sided printing.
  - c. 12 point font, Arial, Calibri, Times New Roman
4. Maximum word limit:
  - a. 1,500 words for 7<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grades
  - b. 3,000 words for 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grades
5. Project Submission Form should be stapled to the front of the entry
  - a. **NO NAME should appear on the entry itself. Entries with names will be disqualified.**
  - b. **Titles are required on the entry and should match the title provided on the submission form. Titles should be punctuated correctly. No underlining or quotation marks of titles on original work.**
  - c. Entries should NOT be bound or laminated and should NOT include a cover or filler sheet.

**Categories of Writing:** Poetry  
Short Story  
Essay (narrative or expository)

**Judging:** Entries will be judged on literary merit and usage/grammar appropriate to grade level. The work is not to be taken from or based upon any writing by any author famous or unknown, student or adult - or from any published or unpublished source such as a book, magazine, literary anthology, or the like. Judges will be teacher consultants from the University of Mississippi Writing Project.

**Mail entries to:** Outreach and Continuing Education  
Office of Pre-College Programs  
The University of Mississippi  
P.O. Box 1848  
University, MS 38677