

Rules and Guidelines for the Young Writers Contest 2022

ABOUT THE CONTEST

Mt. Diablo's Young Writers Contest is for 6th, 7th, and 8th grade students who live or attend school in Contra Costa County. The contest has been held every year since 1995, starting with two categories and reaching just one school district. It has grown to encompass all of Contra Costa County and now provides four categories: Poetry, Short Story, Personal Narrative, and Humor.

CONSENT TO COLLECT AND USE PERSONAL DATA OF MINORS

To our students: because our contest takes place online, we are required to obtain consent from a parent or guardian before accepting contest entries. When you submit an entry, we ask you to provide contact information for a parent. We will contact your parent to ask for permission. Once we have consent, your entry will be processed.

If we do not receive permission from your parent or guardian, we cannot accept your entry for the contest.

AWARDS

First-place winners in each category receive **\$100**, second-place winners receive **\$50**, and third-place winners receive **\$25**. Prizes are awarded at a ceremony on May 21, 2022.

RULES

- The categories are Poetry, Short Story, Personal Narrative, and Humor.
- We do not suggest or assign topics. Students must choose their own topic.
- All entries must be the original work of the student.
- Entries must be in English.
- Personal Information (name, address, etc.) must not appear on the manuscript or in the name of the submitted file.
- A maximum of **three entries** per student are welcome under **separate** submission. **Note:** this means three entries **per student**, not three entries per category.
- **Each submission should use the following formatting:**
 - Text: Times New Roman, 12-point, black
 - 1-inch margins all around
 - Double-spaced, except for poetry, which may be single-spaced
 - Title on first page and page numbers in the footer
 - Indentation on first line of each paragraph
 - No illustrations or photographs

WORD OR PAGE LIMITS PER CATEGORY

Word limits (and line limits for Poetry) will be strictly enforced. Don't go over the limit!

- **PERSONAL NARRATIVE:** An essay about a personal experience in the author's life. Usually written in first person. Up to **1,000 words**, Times New Roman, 12-pt, double-spaced.
- **SHORT STORY:** Fiction, any genre. Up to **1,500 words**, Times New Roman, 12-pt, double-spaced.
- **POETRY:** Any form. Up to **30 lines**.
- **HUMOR:** Humor entries may be Personal Narrative, Short Story, or Poetry - they're just funny! Use the requirements shown for the appropriate category above.

IMPORTANT: If you are submitting something as part of a classroom assignment, please include a **UNIQUE TITLE*** when you submit your piece. Do not use the general title of the classroom assignment. It is confusing if we receive several submissions with the same title.

*Your filename should be the same as your title. For example, if your story or poem is titled "Lemons and Oranges," your filename should be lemonsandoranges.doc (or .docx).

QUESTIONS?

Email youngwriters@cwcmtdiablo.org.

IMPORTANT: If you are sending from a public school email address, we will not be able to send you a reply. Please provide a parent's or alternate email address to receive our answer.