

# 2012 Scholastic Writing Awards Contest

## Writing Contest Categories and Length Limits

### Writing Categories

#### Deadlines

For more information about California's submission deadlines and procedures, at the end of summer visit [http://californiawrites.org/Students/students\\_writingawards.html](http://californiawrites.org/Students/students_writingawards.html).

California submission deadlines: **Early Submission Deadline: December 5, 2011; Final Submission Deadline: December 15, 2011.**

#### Writing Categories

##### **DRAMATIC SCRIPT**

Writing that uses dialog, action and stage direction to tell a story, including scripts for television, film or stage.

Length Limits: Grades 7-12: 5 to 50 pages

##### **HUMOR**

Writing that uses satire, parody or humorous anecdote in any form/genre.

Special Instructions: Any manuscript where is the key element should be submitted in this category, including humorous dramatic scripts, poetry, short or short, short stories, personal essays, or journalism works.

Length Limits: Grades 7-12: 600-3,000 words; 5 to 50 pages

##### **JOURNALISM**

Writing that informs and educates the general public about newsworthy topics or current events. Works of journalism are intended for publication in newspapers, magazines, or online media, and are characterized by a presentation of facts or description of events.

Special instructions: Sources must be acknowledged. Footnotes/works cited are not considered part of the word count. Research papers and literary analysis are generally not accepted. Manuscript must not contain images, graphs or other visuals.

Length Limits: Grades 7-8: 400-2,000 words; Grades 9-12: 500-3,000 words.

##### **PERSONAL ESSAY/MEMOIR**

A self-revelatory work dealing with individual experience.

Special Instructions: Nonfiction work only. Fictional essays should be submitted in the Short Story or Short, Short Story categories.

Length Limits: Grades 7-8: 500-3,000 words; Grades 9-12: 750-3,000 words.

##### **PERSUASIVE WRITING**

Writing that makes an argument to support a particular point of view or position. The writer presents a clear stand or opinion, and then provides facts and data to support it. Examples of persuasive writing include: editorials, position papers, essays prepared for debate or speech.

Special Instructions: Sources must be acknowledged. Footnotes/works cited are not considered part of the word count. Research papers and literary analysis are generally not accepted. Manuscript must not contain images, graphs, or visuals.

Length Limits: Grades 7-8: 400-2,000 words; Grades 9-12: 500-3,000 words.

##### **POETRY**

Writing in verse. May include prose poetry, free verse, structured poetry (sonnets, haikus, sestinas, tankas, cinquans, villanelles, etc.), song lyrics, and spoken word. Each submission consists of **2-5 poems** to be considered as a collection. Students may enter more than one submission in the poetry category.

Length Limits: Group 1 (7-8 Grades): 20-100 lines; Group 2 (9-12 Grades): 30-200 lines total per submission.

The California Writing Awards is sponsored by the 17 sites of the California Writing Project, California Writes!, and the California Association of Teachers of English.

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### SCIENCE FICTION/FANTASY

Writing that uses supernatural elements or invented technologies.

Special Instructions: Do not base on already published works from books, movies, comics, etc. Any manuscript where science fiction/fantasy is the key element should be submitted in this category, including dramatic scripts, poetry, short stories.

Length Limits: Grades 7-12: 600-3,000 words.

### SHORT STORY

A tightly crafted fictional narrative.

Special Instructions: Please note word length limits for Short Story compared to Short Short Story. Short Stories where humor or science fiction/fantasy are key elements should be submitted in those respective categories.

Length Limits: Grades 7-12: 1,300-3,000 words.

### SHORT SHORT STORY

A highly focused story concerning one central idea, conflict or situation.

Special Instructions: Please note word length limits for Short Story compared to Short Short Story. Short Short Stories where humor or science fiction/fantasy are key elements should be submitted in those respective categories.

Length Limits: Grades 7-12: 600-1,300 words.

### GENERAL WRITING PORTFOLIO

**PORTFOLIOS ARE OPEN ONLY TO STUDENTS GRADUATING IN 2012.** A body of the best three to eight works that demonstrates a high level of achievement in originality, technical skill and personal voice.

General writing portfolios consist of writing from any category or combination of categories. Must include a table of contents, writer's statement and letter of recommendation.

Length Limits: Up to 50 pages, not including table of contents or writer's statement.

### NONFICTION PORTFOLIO

**PORTFOLIOS ARE OPEN ONLY TO STUDENTS GRADUATING IN 2012.** A body of the best three to eight works that demonstrates a high level of achievement in originality, technical skill and personal voice.

Nonfiction portfolios consist of Humor, Journalism, Personal Essay/Memoir, Persuasive Writing and other nonfiction work. Must include a table of contents, writer's statement and letter of recommendation.