

# California Writing Awards

## 2012 Scholastic Writing Awards Contest

Affiliate of the Alliance for Young Artists & Writers

September 6, 2011

Dear Writers,

If you will be a student in grades 7-12 this coming school year, you are invited to participate in the California Writing Awards 2012 and submit your writing for special recognition.

Read through the 2012 writing submission categories on the next two pages to see all the types of writing you can try out and explore. The writing you submit can have been written in a summer writing program, at home on your own time, in class as an assignment, or in an out-of-school program.

If you write a great story, poem, essay, or another type of writing that fits into one of the eleven categories, plan to submit your writing next December. You can submit writing in more than one category. The Early Submission Deadline will be December 5, 2011, and the Final Deadline will be December 15, 2011. You, your parents, and your teachers can find all the program information and submission guidelines and deadlines by linking to

[http://californiawrites.org/Students/students\\_writingawards.html](http://californiawrites.org/Students/students_writingawards.html) or by following the California Writes Facebook page at <http://www.facebook.com/CaliforniaWrites>. Check there for updates too.

On September 15, 2011 the national website will be open for the online registration that is required for all writers who want to submit their work. You can also find information about national writing opportunities such as the NY Life Award, Design Video Games, and the novel submission process. Link to <http://www.artandwriting.org/>.

All writing submitted for the California Writing Awards will be read and judged by a panel of writing teachers and professors, published writers, and literary professionals. Those judges select the writing submissions that receive the following awards:

- **Gold Keys** are awarded to the most accomplished works. California's Gold Key winners are then forwarded to the Scholastic Writing Awards for the national judging and possible scholarships and publication.
- **Silver Keys** are awarded to distinguished work and ***Honorable Mention Awards*** to excellent work.
- ***Five American Voices Nominations*** are awarded to outstanding Gold Key writing. This award honors the best in show in any category and age group.

Last year almost 300 writers were honored, and we would love to be able to recognize you and your writing in the 2012 California Writing Awards.

Sincerely,

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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Jayne Marlink  
Executive Director  
California Writing Project  
University of California, Berkeley

For the California Writing Project Statewide Network, California Writes!, and the California Association of Teachers of English.

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