

SHORT STORY

Description

A brief examination of a subject of your choice expressing a personal viewpoint or interpretation.

Overview

Do you have a story to tell? This is your opportunity to write a short story that dives into a subject close to your heart. Whether fictional or nonfictional, your story should reflect your personal perspective or interpretation of an issue or topic that matters to you within 1500-3000 words. Let your imagination flow or share your real-world experiences—your voice and vision are what bring your story to life!

Requirements:

1. Submission:
 - a. Submit one notarized copy of your short story.
 - b. Each page must include your name, page number, and the competition name.
2. Story Guidelines:
 - a. Length: 1500-3000 words
 - b. Format: Typed, double-spaced
 - c. Content:
 - i. Single storyline
 - ii. No more than 3-4 characters
 - iii. Single point of view
 - iv. Short time frame
3. Oral Presentation:
 - a. Be prepared to answer questions from the judges about your story.

Judging Criteria

Category	Weight	Description
General Merit	25	
* Ideas *		Originality, unique perspective, clear storyline, focused time frame
* Organization & Clarity *		Consistent writing style, mood, and tone
* Wording *		Effective use of language for expression, realism, and emphasis
* Flavor *		Strong author's voice, style, and depth
Mechanics	25	
* Usage *		Correct grammar and syntax
* Punctuation, Capitalization, & Spelling *		Accurate use of punctuation, capitalization, and spelling
* Story Elements *		Well-developed plot, setting, characters, and point of view
Overall Effect	50	
* Conciseness *		Minimal background information and concise dialogue

* Ending *

Satisfying conclusion that aligns with the plot and resonates with the reader

Total

100

Notes for Judges

- This competition is interview based and requires advanced screening of the contestants' materials in order to adequately interview them on the day of the competition. Each contestant will only have an allocated time allotment of 10 minutes.
- You should not under any circumstances engage with the students before or after the competition until the Awards Ceremony has concluded.
- You must provide honest constructive feedback for each contestant that you are judging.
- Scoring Rubric:
 - 95-100 - Qualifies as a Gold Medalist ○
 - 90+Up - Qualifies as a Silver Medalist ○
 - 85+Up - Qualifies as a Bronze Medalist
 - Please take heed that the identifying word here is “Qualifies”. There can be multiple contestants that can qualify as gold medalist and if that’s the case the highest score will receive the gold, and silver and bronze will be allocated to the next two highest scores.
 - In the event the highest score is a 90 then there is no gold medalist and there’s only a possibility for a silver and bronze medalist as long as the remaining scores land within the 85+Up region.

Tips for Contestants:

- Choose a topic you're passionate about. This will make the writing process more enjoyable and help you create a more compelling story.
- Develop strong characters. Give your characters depth and complexity to make them more believable and relatable.
- Create a vivid setting. Use descriptive language to transport your reader to another world.
- Use strong language. Choose your words carefully to create the desired effect.
- Edit and revise. Don't be afraid to rewrite and edit your work until it's perfect.
- Proofread carefully. Check for errors in grammar, punctuation, and spelling.
- Practice your presentation skills. Be prepared to answer questions about your story.