

Regional Information



ALLIANCE FOR YOUNG ARTISTS & WRITERS presents
THE SCHOLASTIC ART & WRITING AWARDS 2010

Harris County Writing Region

Regional Affiliate: Harris County Department of Education

Affiliate Supported by: University of St. Thomas, School of Education; Women in the Visual and Literary Arts; Houston Chronicle.

Area of Service: Harris County

Online Registration: Participants and teachers must register at www.artandwriting.org. Please print 2 copies of the completed submission form and obtain required signatures.

Regional Instructions/Announcements: Please check our website at www.hcde-texas.org for additional information.

Deadline and Submission

All submissions must be received by Monday, November 16, 2009.

By Mail or Delivery:

Kris Reid

Harris County Department of Education

6300 Irvington Boulevard

Houston, TX 77022

Processing Fee: The Alliance for Young Artists & Writers, the national nonprofit organization that presents The Scholastic Art & Writing Awards, requires standardized process fees of \$5.00 for each individual category submission and \$20.00 for each portfolio submission. Make checks payable to Harris County Department of Education.

Fee Waiver: Any student who currently qualifies under the Federal School Lunch Act for the Free and Reduced Lunch program may request a submission fee waiver. Reduced fees are also available to students for whom fees would be a barrier to participation. A request from the student or the teacher for the submission fee waiver should be submitted on school letterhead and included with the work in place of the submission fee. Make checks payable to Harris County Department of Education.

Regional Celebration

Gold & Silver Key Writing Receptions: Tuesday, February 9 & Thursday, February 11, 2010

Harris County Department of Education
6300 Irvington Blvd.
Houston, TX 77022

Contact

Kris Reid
Phone: 713-696-1310
Email: kcreid@hcde-texas.org

National Information

What are the judging criteria?

Judges will review each submission for three criteria:

Originality An innovative approach to process, concept and subject matter. Originality often manifests itself in works that go beyond the classroom assignment.	Technical Skill Ability to work fluently in a particular genre. Jurors discuss how technical skill is utilized to advance an original idea or perspective.	Emergence of a Personal Vision Evidence of the writer's unique style, sensibility and perspective.
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BLIND ADJUDICATION

Scholastic Art & Writing Awards jurors know nothing about the identities of the students whose works they are assessing.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION

The Scholastic Art & Writing Awards makes no restriction on content or subject matter. The Alliance for Young Artists & Writers and its Regional Affiliates respect the right of students to explore a full range of expression through their creative talents and pledge that no work will ever be eliminated from consideration for a Scholastic Art & Writing Award due to its content.

What are the categories of work?

NOTE FOR ALL CATEGORIES

- Collaborative works by more than one student are NOT eligible for The Scholastic Writing Awards.

- All works must be written by the student. Characters or plots may not be based on published works. See *Authorship and Plagiarism* section.

CATEGORY DESCRIPTIONS	LENGTH LIMITS
<p>DRAMATIC SCRIPT Writing that uses dialogue, action and stage direction to tell a story, including scripts for television, film, or stage.</p>	<p>Grades 7 - 12 5 to 50 pages</p>
<p>HUMOR Writing that uses satire, parody or humorous anecdote in any form/genre. Special Instructions: Any manuscript in which humor 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.</p>	<p>Grades 7 - 12 600 – 3,000 words</p>
<p>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.</p>	<p>Grades 7 – 8 400 – 2,000 words</p> <p>Grades 9 – 12 500 – 3,000 words</p>
<p>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.</p>	<p>Grades 7 – 8 500 – 3,000 words</p> <p>Grades 9 – 12 750 – 3,000 words</p>
<p>PERSUASIVE WRITING (NEW WRITING CATEGORY 2010) 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 cited. 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.</p>	<p>Grades 7 – 8 400 – 2,000 words</p> <p>Grades 9 – 12 500 – 3,000 words</p>
<p>POETRY Writing in verse. Poetry may be in traditional forms such as: ballads, odes, sonnets, haikus, limericks, sonnets, etc., experimental forms, or free verse. Special Instructions: Poetry may be submitted as either a collection of work or a single poem per submission. Poetry does not have to be double-spaced.</p>	<p>Grades 7 – 8 10 – 100 lines total per poetry submission</p> <p>Grades 9 – 12 10 – 200 lines total per submission</p>
<p>NOVEL WRITING In collaboration with Scholastic Inc. PUSH imprint, the Alliance for Young Artists & Writers is pleased to present the Novel Writing Category. Novels are longer narratives divided in chapters. Adaptations of, or sequels to already existing published works are not accepted. The submission must include an outline for the entire book, not to exceed two pages, which is not counted in the 50-page limit.</p> <p>Approximately 500 novel manuscripts are submitted each year. One national-level Novel Gold Medalist will work with a professional editor to complete his/her manuscript, with the possibility of publication. Students whose works are not recognized will NOT</p>	<p>Grades 7 – 12 15 – 50 pages. Must include at least three and no more than five chapters. If more than 50 pages or five chapters are submitted, the first 50 pages or five chapters will be read.</p> <p>Special Deadline for ALL Novels regardless of region: All novel submissions must POSTMARKED by March 12, 2010 and sent directly to: Alliance for Young Artists & Writers (Novel Writing) 557 Broadway New York, NY 10012</p>

<p>receive feedback on their submissions.</p>	
<p>SCIENCE FICTION/FANTASY Writing that uses supernatural elements or invented technologies. Special Instructions: Do not base characters or plots on already published works (books, movies, comics, etc.). Any manuscript in which science fiction/fantasy is the key element should be submitted in this category, including dramatic scripts, poetry, short stories or short short stories.</p>	<p>Grades 7 - 12 600 – 3,000 words</p>
<p>SHORT STORY A tightly crafted fictional narrative. Special Instructions: Please note word length limits for Short Story compared to Short Short Story. Short Stories in which humor or science fiction/fantasy are key elements should be submitted in those respective categories.</p>	<p>Grades 7 - 12 1,300 – 3,000 words</p>
<p>SHORT SHORT STORY A highly focused story concerning a central idea, conflict or situation. Special Instructions: Please note word length for Short Story compared to Short Short Story. Short Short Stories in which humor or science fiction/fantasy are key elements should be submitted in those respective categories.</p>	<p>Grades 7 – 12 600 – 1,300 words</p>
<p>PORTFOLIO CATEGORIES FOR GRADUATING SENIORS A body of the student’s best three to eight works that demonstrates a high level in originality, technical skill and personal voice.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GENERAL WRITING PORTFOLIO: Writing from any category. • NONFICTION PORTFOLIO: Writing from Humor, Journalism, Personal Essay/Memoir, Persuasive Writing and other nonfiction work. <p>Submission must include a table of contents, writer’s statement and letter of recommendation. Seniors may resubmit works that may or may not have won in previous Scholastic Awards as part of their General Writing or Nonfiction Portfolio. Seniors can only submit ONE of each type of Portfolio.</p>	<p>Grade 12 Up to 50 pages, not including the table of contents or writer’s statement.</p>
<p>Creativity and Citizenship: Freedom of Expression</p> <p>In collaboration with the National Constitution Center in Philadelphia, the Alliance for Young Artists & Writers is pleased to present the Creativity and Citizenship: Freedom of Expression category for both art and writing. Works from any genre can be submitted both to Regional Affiliates in the individual and portfolio categories and to the national office to be considered for the Creativity and Citizenship Award.</p> <p>Students entering this category must respond to the following prompt. The Constitution extends freedom of expression as a fundamental right to all U.S. citizens, but it is also a responsibility. It is up to all of us to make our voices heard in support of causes in which we believe. Our democracy thrives when citizens effectively express their opinions. As a creative citizen, using your artwork or writing, express what you believe will create a better future for the United States of America. Works will be evaluated on their originality, technical skill, and personal vision or voice.</p> <p>Send your submission both to the Regional Affiliate (using the local guidelines for writing categories) AND send a second copy of your manuscript with submission forms to:</p> <p>Alliance for Young Artists & Writers (Creativity and Citizenship) 557 Broadway New York, NY 10012</p>	

There is no submission fee for this category. The deadline is a **POSTMARK deadline of January 8, 2010**. For information regarding submission in this category, call 212-343-7729 or CAC@artandwriting.org.

How do I prepare my work?

Writing submissions must adhere to the following:

- **Length:** See Category Descriptions for length limits.
- **Printing:** Computer-printed in black on 8.5" x 11" white paper, single-sided. No handwritten work.
- **Fonts:** Times New Roman 12 pt. or Arial 12 pt.
- **Margins:** 1" on top, bottom, left and right
- **Spacing:** Double-spaced (except for Poetry and Dramatic Script)
- **Titles:** Titles at the top of the first page only. Do not add a separate title page. Poems should be titled individually.
- **No Name:** The student's name must NOT appear anywhere on the manuscript.
- **No Images:** No illustrations, photographs or graphics.
- **Submission Forms:** Attach two copies of the registered submission form, which must be stapled to the writing in the upper left corner. Do not bind or enclose in a folder. Longer submissions should be stapled with an industrial stapler.
- **Signatures:** Obtain required signatures from a teacher and parent/guardian on the submission forms. Students, teachers and parents/guardians should carefully review the Authorship and Plagiarism and Copyright Release sections. By signing, students, teachers and parents/guardians agree to all terms and conditions. Parent signatures are not required if the student is over 18 years old.

How do I prepare a senior portfolio?

Portfolio submissions must include:

- **Three to eight works.**
- **Table of contents** listing the title and category of each piece.
- **Statement of Purpose** of no more than 500 words focusing on the author's approach to writing and why works were included in the portfolio.
- **Sealed Letter of Recommendation** from a teacher, principal or other official who can comment on the student's writing.

What is The Scholastic Art & Writing Awards Process?

Submit the Work to the Regional Affiliate

Submit work by the deadline as indicated in the Regional Information section.

- Enclose the above formatted manuscript in a 9" x 12" envelope, with TWO copies of the signed submission forms, with the processing fee (if applicable) clipped in

the upper left-hand corner. If a teacher is sending multiple entries, manuscripts can be mailed in one box.

- SEND THE WRITING FLAT, NOT FOLDED.
- Deliver works in person or by mail as directed in Regional Information.
- For confirmation of submission arrival, the Alliance suggests that you send your work via UPS, USPS Confirmation, or FedEx—where a signature is required.
- Include the processing fee. See Regional Information section for more information.

Regional Adjudication

Manuscripts will be reviewed by panels of professional authors, poets, publishers and literary arts professionals. Works are reviewed in their respective grade groups and categories. Grade groups may vary by region, but in general, works by students in grades 7 and 8 are reviewed separately from works by students in grades 9, 10, 11, and 12.

When will I know if I won a regional award?

Students and their teachers who are recognized with regional awards will be notified within one to three months of the submission deadline. Due to the volume of submissions, only those students earning awards will be notified.

When will I know if I won a national award?

Students and their teachers who earn additional awards on the national level will be notified by mail in late April. Due to the volume of submissions, only those students earning national awards will be notified.

What happens to my work on the national level?

Works earning Gold Keys are forwarded to the national judging of The Scholastic Art & Writing Awards in New York City in February 2010. All Gold Key works from across the country will be reviewed by nationally and internationally renowned writers to select approximately 1,000 awards on the national level.

What can I win?

RECOGNITION LEVELS

Regional Awards: Students earn Key Awards on the Regional Level

GOLD KEY

Artwork demonstrating the highest levels of achievement in originality, technique and personal vision. Gold Key writing is forwarded to New York City for national adjudication. Students are recognized with Gold Key lapel pins and certificates.

Young Artist Awards: Summer Scholarships

The Alliance for Young Artists & Writers presents the Jack Kent Cooke Young Artist Awards for students in grades 7 – 11 to attend summer art and writing programs to develop their vision and hone their craft.

After earning a Gold Key, students can apply for a scholarship up to \$2,500 to attend a summer art or writing camp, pre-college program, or intensive. Students must earn a Gold Key in The Scholastic Art & Writing Awards of 2010 and must face **financial barriers** to participate in a summer program. Students must submit an additional application for this scholarship in January 2010. The Young Artist Awards Application will be available at www.artandwriting.org. Between 20 – 50 students will be selected to receive Young Artist Awards this year.

AMERICAN VISIONS NOMINEES

For areas of the country with a Regional Affiliate Program, five Gold Key works are nominated as “Best of Show.” These works are reviewed in a special adjudication for the American Visions Award. One National American Visions Medalist is recognized from each region.

SILVER KEY

Artwork demonstrating achievement worthy of recognition on the regional level. Students are recognized with Silver Key lapel pins and certificates.

HONORABLE MENTION

Artwork demonstrating artistic potential. Honorable Mention certificates are presented in some regions.

National Awards: Students earn Medals on the National Level

GOLD MEDAL

Selected from the regional Gold Keys, the most outstanding artwork demonstrating originality, technique and personal vision on the national level. Students receive Gold Medals, certificates and listing in the national catalog of The Scholastic Art & Writing Awards of 2010.

AMERICAN VISIONS MEDAL

From the five American Visions Award Nominees, a panel of jurors selects one national level award recipient from each region. Portfolios are not eligible. Students receive American Visions Awards Medals, certificates, and are listed in the national catalog of The Scholastic Art & Writing Awards of 2010.

SILVER MEDAL

Selected from the regional Gold Keys, artwork demonstrating high honors on the national level. Students receive Silver Medals, certificates, and are listed in the national catalog of The Scholastic Art & Writing Awards of 2010.

National Portfolio Awards and Scholarship Opportunities for Graduating Students

PORTFOLIO GOLD MEDAL

The most outstanding level of achievement demonstrated by graduating seniors who submitted a body of artwork in the Portfolio categories. Six Art Portfolio Gold Medalists and two Photography Portfolio Gold Medalists are recognized with \$10,000 unrestricted cash grant scholarships presented in the names of leadership donors of the Alliance. Portfolio Gold Award recipients are also nominated for scholarships to schools who are

part of the Alliance Scholarship Provider Network. Visit www.artandwriting.org to view the list of scholarships made available to seniors earning national level awards.

PORTFOLIO SILVER MEDAL

Portfolio Silver Medals are bestowed on graduating seniors for excellence in the Art and Photography Portfolio categories on the national level. A select number of the top ranking Portfolio Silver Medalists may receive \$1,000 Notable Achievement scholarships, as recommended by the national jurors. Portfolio Silver Medalists are also nominated for scholarships to schools that are part of the Alliance Scholarship Provider Network. Visit www.artandwriting.org to view the list of scholarships made available to seniors earning national level awards.

PUBLICATION OF SELECTED NATIONAL AWARD RECIPIENTS' WORKS

A selection of the national award-winning work will be showcased in Alliance and Scholastic publications such as the National Catalog of The Scholastic Art & Writing Awards, *The Best Teen Writing* and Scholastic Magazines. Students will receive a copy of any publication in which their work appears. As is customary with all professional publications, the publisher reserves the right to edit works for appropriateness or space requirements of the publication.

National Awards for Teachers

PORTFOLIO TEACHER AWARD

Eight \$1,000 awards are presented to sponsoring teachers (educators who sign the submission form) of Art Portfolio Gold Medalists and Photography Portfolio Gold Medalists. Multiple teachers submitting for one student will share the award.

GOLD APPLE TEACHER AWARD

One \$1,000 award to the teacher who submits the most outstanding group of submissions. Multiple teachers submitting for one group will share the award.

Copyrights Release

By signing the submission form, effective as of the date of submission, the student agrees to the terms and conditions and makes each of the grants and waivers set forth in this paragraph. The student irrevocably grants an assignment transferring to the Alliance for Young Artists & Writers, Inc. ("Alliance") all right, title and interest (including all copyrights) in and to the submitted work ("Work"), such that the Work, and all rights relating to the Work, shall be the exclusive property of the Alliance. Rights with respect to a Work not selected as an award recipient will revert automatically to the student at the time award recipients are selected. All right, title and interest (including all copyrights) with respect to Works selected for awards will remain the exclusive property of the Alliance for two years from the date of selection. During this period, the Alliance will have the right to exercise, and to permit others to exercise, all rights relating to the Work, including the worldwide rights to reproduce, make, use, publish, promote, and publicly display and perform the Work and adaptations, modifications and other derivative works of or based on the Work, individually and as part of a compilation or collective work, in all forms and media (print, electronic and other) now known or hereafter developed. At the end of the two-year period, all rights to the work shall automatically revert to the student subject to the student's irrevocable grant to the Alliance of a worldwide, perpetual, non-exclusive license to exercise all copyrights in the Work in all forms and

media as described above, including the rights to reproduce, make, use, publish, promote, and publicly display and perform the Work and adaptations, modifications and other derivative works of or based on the Work, and to have others do so on the Alliance's behalf. The Alliance shall have the right to publish and present the Work in such manner and for such purposes as it deems appropriate, including the right to manipulate, crop, rearrange, recompose, and otherwise alter the Work, and to publish and present the Work in combination with the Alliance's name and with other works, names and materials. In granting the Alliance these rights, the Student knowingly, voluntarily and irrevocably waives all rights in the Works arising under Section 106A of the U.S. Copyright Act (17 U.S.C. § 106A) and all "moral rights" in the Work arising under any applicable law of any jurisdiction. The Alliance does not copyright individual works, only the publications in which they appear. The student acknowledges and agrees that the administration of the Scholastic Awards constitutes good and sufficient consideration for the agreements, grants, waivers and other undertakings set forth in this paragraph, and unconditionally and irrevocably waives and disclaims all rights and claims to compensation for the exercise of the rights, licenses and privileges accorded hereby.

Authorship and Plagiarism

All work must be executed by the student, except in Photography where students are not required to develop, process or enlarge their photos themselves. By applying to The Scholastic Art & Writing Awards, each student undertakes (a) to present an original work that (i) has been created by her or himself and (ii) does not infringe upon the intellectual property rights of any other individual or entity and (b) if such student's work incorporates material, including but not limited to photographs, not created by the student, to include an additional copy of any and all such source material in her or his application.

Disclaimer

None of the Alliance for Young Artists & Writers, Inc., its sponsors and Scholastic Inc. is responsible for direct, indirect, incidental, consequential or punitive damages resulting from any failure on the part of any of the aforementioned entities to perform hereunder.

About the Online Registration System

Participants must have email accounts in order to register their work in The Scholastic Art & Writing Awards. Participants should talk with their parents and teachers before ever giving their email addresses to any Web site. During the selection process, jurors do not have access to personal information as criteria for awarding students. If you are having technical difficulty with the online registration system, please contact onlineregistration@artandwriting.org. In the email, include your name, contact information, name of your school and school's zip code.

Commission Children's Online Privacy Protection Act

Web sites that collect information from children under the age of thirteen are required to

comply with Federal Trade Commission Children's Online Privacy Protection Act (COPPA). Visit www.coppa.org to learn more. Students twelve years old or younger in grade 7, who wish to participate, may obtain a submission form at www.artandwriting.org that can be completed by hand and signed by the student, parent and teacher instead of registering online.

Note to Teachers and Parents: A teacher, counselor or principal AND a parent/guardian must review and sign each submission form. Be sure to read all rules and guidelines with your students. We rely on teachers to make sure that submissions adhere to our guidelines. Send all work from your school together, if possible. See Regional Information section for delivery details. The Scholastic Art & Writing Awards, which are administered by the Alliance for Young Artists & Writers, Inc., assume no responsibility when unsafe or toxic materials are used in preparation of artwork.

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