

HUMANITIES

MUSIC COMPOSITION

Description

The science or art of arranging music by ordering tones or sounds in succession.

Overview

Get ready to unleash your creativity and compose an original piece of music that showcases your unique voice! In this competition, you'll be judged on your creativity, musical structure, harmonic and rhythmic association, melodic strength, theoretical understanding, and overall presentation. Your composition can be performed live or submitted as a pre-recorded piece—so bring your best sound and show the world your musical talent!

Requirements

1. **Original Composition:** Submit one original, notarized composition.
2. **Formatting:** The top page of the composition must include the contestant's name, page number, and unit name and number.
3. **Manuscript:** The composition must be neatly written on standard music manuscript paper, clear enough for any trained musician to perform. Electronically generated manuscripts (Finale, Sibelius, etc.) must be carefully proofread to ensure accurate quantization. All submissions must demonstrate a strong understanding of the chosen medium.
4. **Audio Recording:** Submit an MP3 audio file of the composition along with the National Registration materials. Local units may allow CD submissions for local competitions.
5. **Time Limit:** The composition must not exceed five (5) minutes. Exceeding this time limit may result in point deductions or disqualification.
6. **Interview:** Contestants will be interviewed by a panel of judges to discuss their work.
7. **Performance:** Students must perform their piece without affecting their interview time. Performances can be live or pre-recorded. Pre-recorded performances must be arranged and produced by the contestant—it can feature collaborative performers, however additional points are not awarded for collaborations.

Necessary equipment:

This equipment is provided and standard at the national competition and although this might not be feasible at the local level it is recommended.

1. Laptop w/charger or a CD Playing device
2. Speakers
3. [Dongle Adapter](#) for Macbooks
4. Aux Adaptor for playback from phones
 - a. USB C to 3.5 mm Aux Jack (Most modern devices)
 - b. Lightning to 3.5 Aux Jack (older apple devices)
5. Aux cable
6. Outlet Surge Protector

Judging Criteria

Criteria	Points	Description
Creative Sense	10	
Form	20	
Harmonic and Rhythmic Interest	20	
Melodic Strength	10	
Execution of Manuscript (performance)	10	
Theoretical Understanding	20	
Quality of Manuscript	10	
Point Deduction	-1 to -5	In the event the student composition exceeds 5 mins one point will be deducted for every minute over up to five points.
Total	100	

Submission Guidelines

- Ensure that all submissions are original and adhere to the specified guidelines.
- Submit the notarized composition, MP3 audio file, and National Registration materials by the deadline.

Showcase Your Musical Talent!

This competition is an opportunity to express your creativity and technical skills as a composer. Good luck!

ORIGINAL ESSAY

Description

Creating an essay with your own unique perspective, analysis, and interpretation on a pre-selected topic.

Overview

Put your thoughts on paper and write a thought-provoking essay on a pre-selected topic. Your entry will be evaluated on content, organization, style, and overall impact.

Requirements

1. **Original Essay:** Submit one original, notarized essay.
2. **Formatting:** The top of each page must include the contestant's name, page number, and unit name and number.
3. **Length:** The essay must be typed, double-spaced, and not exceed 6,000 words.
4. **Interview:** Contestants will be interviewed by a panel of judges to discuss their work.

Judging Criteria

Criteria	Points
General Merit	25
Ideas, Organization, Clarity, and Flow, Wording, Flavor	
Mechanics	25
Proper Usage, Punctuation/Capitalization, Spelling	
Overall Effect	50
Convincing and Compelling, Resonance, Topic/Issue Significance, Educaitional Value	
Total	100

Submission Guidelines

- Ensure that all submissions are original and adhere to the specified guidelines.
- Submit the notarized essay by the deadline.

Showcase Your Writing Skills!

This competition is an opportunity to demonstrate your ability to research, analyze, and articulate ideas effectively. Good luck!

PLAYWRITING

One-Act Play Competition

Description:

A literary composition developed for the stage.

Overview

Create an original, one-act play that captivates audiences and showcases your literary talent. Your play should be a unique and engaging piece of dramatic literature, suitable for stage performance.

Requirements:

1. Originality: The play must be your original work.
2. Submission: Submit one notarized copy of your completed play.
3. Formatting:
 - a. Typed and double-spaced
 - b. Maximum of 20 pages
 - c. Include a one-page synopsis
 - d. Each page should include your name, page number, unit name, and number.
4. Interview: Contestants will be interviewed by a panel of judges to discuss their work.

Judging Criteria:

Criteria	Weight
Characterization	10
Clarity	10
Content	25
Dialogue	10
Mechanics	10
Plot	25
Style	10
Total	100

Characterization:

- Is there a clear protagonist and antagonist?
- Are the characters well-developed and distinct?
- Are the roles well-defined?

Clarity:

- Is the author's theme and purpose clear?
- Is the play's message effectively communicated?

Content:

- Is the subject matter relevant, creative, and/or thought-provoking?
- Does the play explore meaningful themes or issues?

Dialogue:

- Is the dialogue consistent with the characters' personalities and backgrounds?
- Does the dialogue advance the plot or develop the characters?

Mechanics:

- Is the manuscript neatly typed and free of errors?
- Are the spelling and grammar correct?

Plot:

- Is the storyline well-defined and engaging?
- Does the play follow a clear structure with exposition, complication, climax, and resolution?

Style:

- Does the playwright have a distinct style or voice?
- Is the writing style effective and appropriate for the play?

POETRY – WRITTEN

Description

A linguistic composition that explores the imagination and evokes emotion through text.

Overview

Calling All Young Poets! Are you a wordsmith with a passion for poetry? Do you have a story to tell, an emotion to express, or a vision to share? Then this poetry competition is for you! Poetry is a powerful art form that uses language for its sound, beauty, and ability to evoke deep meaning. Your poem must be an original work—no need to perform it, just let your creativity shine on the page and make your words unforgettable!

Competition Requirements:

1. Original Work: Your poem must be your own original creation.
2. Typed Submission: Please type your poem using a 12-point font, such as Calibri or Times New Roman.
3. Formatting:
 - a. Include your name, page number, and unit name/number at the top of each page.
 - b. Retain the original form of your poem (free verse or structured).
 - c. Do not exceed 3 pages.
4. Notarized Copy: Submit one notarized copy of your original poem.
5. Interview: Contestants will be interviewed by a panel of judges to discuss their work. Judges may ask contestants to perform/read one stanza/verse from their poem. Points are not awarded for performing/reading the segment.

Judging Criteria:

Criteria	Weight	Description
Emotional Connection	20	Does the poem evoke a strong emotional response in the reader?
Original Thought	20	Is the poem unique and thought-provoking?
Sequential Development	20	Does the poem have a clear structure and flow?
Structure & Presentation	20	Is the poem well-formatted and grammatically correct?
Language & Theme	20	Does the poem use vivid language and imagery to enhance the theme?
Total	100	

Tips for Contestants:

- Read widely: Explore different poetic styles and techniques.
- Write from the heart: Let your emotions guide your writing.
- Revise and edit: Polish your work.
- Practice your presentation: Be prepared to discuss your poem with the judges.
- Believe in yourself: Your unique voice deserves to be heard.

Let your words soar! Submit your best work and showcase your poetic talent.

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. Interview: Contestants will be interviewed by a panel of judges to discuss their work.

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	

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.