

TEEN TALENT 26



CREATIVE WRITING DIVISION

JEREMIAH 30:2



SPONSORED BY THE CHURCH OF GOD
INTERNATIONAL YOUTH AND DISCIPLESHIP DEPARTMENT

CATEGORIES

Articles and Essays

News Writing (News Stories, Editorials, Features)

Plays and Skits

Poetry

Short Story



PART ONE

Participation Requirements

1. Each entry must be the original, unpublished work of the participant. **Assistance may be received only in the form of advice. Use of any generative AI (Artificial Intelligence) tools is prohibited (ex. Chat GPT, etc.)**

2. Each entry must have a religious theme, either explicit (clearly expressed) or implied (suggested).

3. It must be **written AFTER the conclusion of the last Teen Talent International Competition.**

4. The following information must be double-spaced in the top, right-hand corner of the first page:

- Name
- Local Church
- Church of God State/Region/Nation
- Number of Words

5. Each manuscript must be submitted in either Microsoft word or a PDF, double-spaced on one side of each 8 1/2 x 11 page.

7. Each entry must adhere to word/line limitation:

- Articles & Essays: 1200 words - 1500 words
- News Writing:
 - News Stories: 400 words - 600 words
 - Editorials: 400 words - 600 words
 - Features: 1000 words - 1200 words
- Plays & Skits: 1200 words - 1500 words
- Poetry: 3 lines - 40 lines (not including stanza breaks)
- Short Story: 1200 words - 1500 words

8. Each entry must be accompanied by a Statement of Verification of Originality to be eligible for competition.

PART TWO

Description of Categories

Articles and Essays

Nonfiction pieces ranging between 1200 -1500 words. Research papers are not acceptable entries for this category.

- Articles: Relate to experiences and/or facts of a central purpose through careful organization and selection of details.
- Essays: Analyze, interpret, or speculate about a central idea through the use of facts, experiences, and/or options.

News Writing

(News Stories, Editorials, and Features)

Articles that provide information about world affairs and general information of an educational, economical, or recreational nature.

- News Story: Articles ranging between 400 - 600 words that utilize only facts and provide no opinions or guesswork. Any quoted material must be documented.
- Editorials: Reflections on the news in essay form ranging between 400 - 600 words. These are presented generally as a personal opinion intended to attack, defend, teach, or praise.
- Features: Stories that take a related, but less important, aspect of a news story and present it from a more human-interest angle. The form is like that of an essay ranging between 1000 - 1,200 words.

Plays and Skits

Fictional or nonfictional dramatizations ranging between 1200 -1500 words.

- Plays: Dramas intended to be enacted on the stage, containing plot, theme, dialogue, characterization, setting, and stage directions.
- Skits: Short dramatizations, which may be humorous or may present a moral, which can be enacted without elaborate stage facilities, and which contain dialogue, characterization, and an element of the plot. Suggested set design and stage directions may also be included.

Poetry

Rhymed or unrhymed verse ranging between 3 - 40 lines that develop a central theme or image.

Short Stories

Fictional pieces ranging between 1200 -1500 words that utilize setting, characterization, plot/structure, and narrator (point of view) to reveal an implied theme.

PART THREE

Glossary of Terms

- **Impact** - The overall effectiveness of a word or the impression it makes on the reader. The impact results from all the separate elements working together to form the whole composition. (Articles/Essays, News Writing, Plays/Skits, Poetry, Short Story)
- **Characterization** - Refers to how well the people in the story or drama are developed or explained and how believable they are. A major consideration in this category is how realistic the characters are and how believable their responses are to the situations in the story or play. Writers employ both direct and indirect characterization to fully develop characters. (Plays/Skits, Short Story)
- **Setting** - The actual physical location of the story or drama. The primary characteristic to be evaluated by the judges is how well the setting is described, how well it fits the theme of the story or play, and how well unified it is with the action. In dramas and skits, some considerations will be given to how feasible the setting is for the production of the drama. (Plays/Skits, Short Story)
- **Plot** - The storyline of the short story or drama. It is essentially what happens. The judge's primary concern in the area of the plot will be how believable the action is, how unified it is, and how appropriate it is to the underlying theme of the piece. The plot structure includes exposition, rising action, conflict, climax, and resolution, all of which culminate to reveal an implied theme. (Plays/Skits, Short Story)
- **Theme** - Probably the most important single element in any work, theme refers to the underlying universal message or insight implied by the author. It is illuminated by the work or the attitude expressed by the working together of all the separate parts. In judging entries, the judges will be looking for evidence of abstract thought, clarity, the subtlety of presentation, and significance. (News Writing, Plays and Skits, Poetry, Short Story)
- **Mechanics** - Grammatical usage, spelling, and punctuation are covered by an evaluation of the contestant's mechanics. (Articles/Essays, News Writing, Plays/Skits, Poetry, Short Story)
- **Clarity of Purpose** - In an essay or article, the purpose is generally contained in a central idea or thesis statement. This section on the judge's scoring sheets asks for an evaluation of how clearly the point of the piece comes through. In other words, how well could you tell what the essay or article was supposed to be about? This aspect of the evaluation sheet also takes into consideration how well the idea of the piece was developed and explained. (Articles/Essays, News Writing)
- **Unity** - The quality of "oneness" which an essay or article should achieve. In other words, it is staying with the main idea throughout the work without 'getting off track' or rambling. (Articles/Essays)
- **Coherence** - The idea that somewhat separate and divergent ideas must be blended together to make the whole. Coherence refers to how well separate ideas are linked so that the piece reads smoothly. It is the effective use of transitions and flow to logically arrange and connect ideas that point to the central focus of the piece. (Articles/Essays, News Writing, Plays/Skits)
- **Organization** - Every article or essay consists of several ideas which all relate to the main point. Organization refers to how well those ideas are ordered to give purpose to this arrangement. In other words, are related ideas together? Is there a sense of logic in the sequence of the ideas? (Articles/Essays, News Writing, Plays/Skits)
- **Logic** - In this application, it is the display of perception in relating ideas and arriving at conclusions. (Articles/Essays, News Writing)

PART THREE

Glossary of Terms

- **Use of Language** - Refers to the contestant's ability to put sentences together correctly and effectively, his/her ability to use assonance, alliteration, symbolism, etc. In some cases, it also refers to his/her ability to use the mechanics of composition correctly. (News Writing, Poetry, Short Story)
- **Documentation** - When a contestant uses information obtained from a published source, he/she must indicate by means of footnotes and a bibliography where the information was acquired. The evaluation of a contestant's documentation includes a consideration of whether or not he/she has adequately acknowledged the sources used, and how reliable the selected sources are. (Articles/Essays, News Writing)
- **Dialogue** - The exchange of conversation between characters in a story or drama. Judges will pay particular attention to how natural the speech of the characters sound, and how the dialogue contributes to the development of the plot and the theme. (Plays/Skits, Short Story)
- **Originality** - The amount of creativity and imagination found in a work. In other words, is the piece fresh and new, alive with the writer's personality and inventiveness? (Poetry)
- **Control** - Includes a consideration of the precision of the construction of the lines of a poem, the effectiveness of rhythm, the ease in the flow of lines, and the evidence of the mastery of poetic devices. (Poetry)
- **Imagery** - Involves a consideration of the contestant's ability to create word pictures that appeal to the reader's imagination, senses, and intellect. (Plays/Skits, Poetry, Short Story)

This is what the *Lord* says:
"Write in a book all the *words*
I have spoken to you."

—Jeremiah 30:2

CREATIVE WRITING

TEEN TALENT CREATIVE WRITING DIVISION

statement of verification of originality

Name _____ Phone # _____
Category _____ Date _____
Age _____
Local Church & State/Region _____



Policy on Plagiarism

PLAGIARISM, THE ACT OF STEALING AND PASSING OFF THE IDEAS OR WORDS OF ANOTHER AS ONE'S OWN, IS A VIOLATION OF BIBLICAL PRINCIPLES. THEREFORE, WE HAVE ADOPTED THE FOLLOWING POLICY:

PLAGIARISM WILL SUBJECT THE PARTICIPANT TO DISQUALIFICATION FROM COMPETITION IN THE TEEN TALENT CREATIVE WRITING DIVISION. THE PARTICIPANT WILL BE IMMEDIATELY DISQUALIFIED, AND THE STATE/REGIONAL DIRECTOR OF YOUTH AND DISCIPLESHIP NOTIFIED OF THE OFFENSE. *PLAGIARISM INCLUDES THE USE OF GENERATIVE AI TOOLS FOR ANY PART OF THE WRITING PROCESS.*



I, _____ am solely responsible for the creation of this piece as an original work using my own content and words. I am aware that plagiarism is a violation of Biblical principles and will result in immediate disqualification from the competition.

Piece Title: _____

Signature of Author: _____

Signature of Parent/Guardian: _____

Date: _____

CREATIVE WRITING

TEEN TALENT CREATIVE WRITING DIVISION

adjudicators' summary

Name _____ Phone # _____

Category _____ Date _____

Address (Street, City, State, Zip) _____

Local Church & State/Region _____

NOTE: This is to be prepared from the adjudicators' individual sheets by someone assigned the responsibility. Follow the provided instructions.

ADJUDICATORS

	1	2	3	4	5	TOTALS	
1 _____							
2 _____							
3 _____							
4 _____							
5 _____							
6 _____							
7 _____							
8 _____							
9 _____							
10 _____							
TOTALS							GRAND TOTAL

COMBINED AVERAGE _____

COMBINED RATING _____

FOR ADJUDICATORS ONLY

Final Average and Rating: After reviewing the above objective analysis and deliberating the matter in view of all entries within this category, the adjudicators have awarded the following average and rating.

AVERAGE

RATING