

Writing Division Guidelines for First Person Essay

Read the General Information and General Rules.

Registrants in the Writing Division may submit entries in the following categories:

- First Person Essay
- Poetry
- Book Chapter (includes Short Story)
- Children's Literature
- Flash Fiction
- Mini Saga

1. All Writing entries must be submitted online prior to the Festival. Information is provided after registration.
2. If the writing entries are not received by the deadline, they will not be judged.
3. Do not bring writing entries to the Festival.
4. All Writing will be evaluated prior to the Festival.

First Person Essay

1. A First Person Essay entry is the art of writing essay based on personal experience.
2. A First Person Essay must have a minimum and a maximum of words. Dialogue is allowed.
 - Elementary: 150 – 300 words
 - Middle School: 300 – 700 words
 - Senior High: 600 – 1200 words
3. All entries must be the original work of one student and not previously submitted in this festival.
4. Entries must be submitted typed in 12-point black Times New Roman or Arial font, double-spaced with at least 1-inch margins on all sides, and may not contain art, Word Art, borders, etc.
5. Each entry must include a title page on page one of the document, with the entry beginning on page two. The title page may not be a separate document. The following information is required:
 - Title
 - Category
 - Author
 - School name, city
 - Word Count

Writing Evaluation Criteria

Each entry will be evaluated on criteria established by the Festival Committee, including the following:

- **Selection**

- o Christian message – presents a clear Christian message
- o Appropriate - appropriate level of difficulty; appropriate for this festival
- o Originality – unique use of original and creative ideas; demonstrates a fresh approach.
- o Title selection - interesting title
- o Style – keeps within genre

- **Communication**

- o Use of language – proper usage and easily understood components of the English language.
- o Freshness of expression – avoidance of clichés; creating fresh and vivid imagery.
- o Development - strong incorporation of key components (plot, character development, and conflict.)
- o Flow of thought – connected ideas and flow

- **Presentation**

- o Structure – proper placement of phrases and words
- o Grammar - correct verb tenses, usage of pronouns, etc.
- o Unique wording – excellent word selection; avoidance of repetitive or common vocabulary
- o Mechanics/spelling - correct word spelling
- o Punctuation - correct use of commas, semi-colons, apostrophes, etc.
- o Transitional elements - consistent flow of topics from paragraph to paragraph
- o Visual elements - coversheet, spacing, margins, and word count

- **Effectiveness**

- o Evident ministry – evidence of spiritual motivation demonstrated with sincerity and passion.
- o Preparation – an apparent effort of time and thought in preparing the piece.
- o Interpretation – overall ability of the writer to capture interest and impact the reader
- o Understandable concept – combination of the selection, communication, presentation/technique, and effectiveness in attaining a response.