



All changes
from
previous
version in
light blue.

FACCS Regional Festival and State Competition Creative Writing Manual

FACCS is delighted to offer competitions for FACCS Member Elementary, Middle School, and High School and Homeschool Group students and individual homeschoolers. These competitions are designed for the purpose of allowing students to gain valuable experiences through the process of competition and evaluation. We want your young people to develop their talents and have a platform for their God-given abilities. Thank you for your help and support in achieving this goal.

Registration & Fees

- FACCS competitions are only open to students who are enrolled in a FACCS or IACCS Member School or Homeschool Group and individual homeschoolers.
- For Member Schools/Homeschool Groups, it is the school's/group's responsibility to register students for competition. Any registration received from a participant separate from the school registration will be declined.
- For individual homeschoolers, it is a parent's responsibility to register homeschoolers for competition. Any registration received from a homeschooler separate from a parent registration will be declined.
- Please follow all registration and entry deadlines. Due to scheduling and judging constraints, late registration entries may not be accepted.
- Fee structure will be determined by competition and membership status. Information regarding fees will be available at the time of registration.
- ALL fees must be paid before participants will be permitted to compete.

Competition Manuals

- Participants are to follow all of the guidelines as stated in this manual.
- There will be revisions from time to time in procedures and expectations. All schools, parent educators, coordinators, officials, and judges will be made aware of the manual version (see top of page) that will be used for each competition.
- Manuals for all FACCS competitions are available separately at www.FACCS.org

Competition Rulings

- All FACCS competition coordinators, officials, and judges are aware of competition rules and regulations and are empowered to make decisions as needed.
- Any/all rulings or decisions made by coordinators, officials, or judges are final.

Location and Date of Event

After your school registers for this event, the Regional Event Coordinator for your region will send specific information regarding location to which entries should be sent and date the entries are due.

Questions

If you have any questions about the competition, please contact the individuals below for answers. Following this order will help you get the answers you need in a timely manner.

1. Your School Competition Coordinator - *call your school*
2. FACCS Event Coordinator - *call your school for the contact information*
3. FACCS Office of Program Services - *visit www.FACCS.org for contact information*

Regional Creative Writing Festival

Purpose

- To provide students the opportunity to improve written communication skills.
- To provide students an opportunity to express themselves creatively.
- To provide students the opportunity to have their written work evaluated.

Description of Event

- Writing guidelines:
 - **All pieces MUST be written under the direct supervision of a teacher at school or parent educator.**
 - Participants may only use a dictionary, a thesaurus, and a King James Version Bible when writing their pieces.
 - **All entries must be typed on plain, white paper by a school official, teacher, or parent educator EXACTLY as written by the participant with no corrections of misspellings or grammatical errors.** (See *Typing Procedures* for more information)
 - **All entries must be submitted with an attached judging form.** The "heading" information of the judging form ([version 4.2](#)) must be completely filled out.
 - **Any entry that does not follow all of the above guidelines and individual category guidelines will be judged, but is not eligible for a ribbon or to advance to the state-level.**
 - Schools are then be asked to judge each entry and submit **their best two (2) entries** from each grade and category to the Regional Creative Writing Festival.
- **Each school/homeschool group is permitted to enter up to two (2) pieces per grade/division, per category.**
- **Each individual school/homeschool group participant may submit up to two (2) total pieces of writing, but they must be in different categories.**
- Students do not attend this contest. Their pieces are sent to a designated Regional Event Coordinator to be evaluated by judges. Participants are not competing against each other but will receive a numerical evaluation of their work based on the standards outlined on the score sheet.

Eligibility of Contestants

- This competition is designed for students in grades 1 – 8 **who are enrolled in a FACCS or IACCS Member School or Homeschool Group and for individual pre-registered homeschoolers.**
- **Member School / Homeschool Groups**
 - Each **Member School/Homeschool group** is permitted to enter up to **two (2) pieces** per grade/division, per category in the Regional Festival.
 - Participants must compete on the grade level in which they are enrolled in school.
- **Homeschoolers**
 - For the purpose of FACCS competitions, a homeschooler is one:
 - who is not enrolled full-time in any type of school (Christian, private, charter, public, online, or distance learning) for academic purposes,
 - whose parent or guardian has registered with the local school district home school education office, and

- who is not enrolled in a FACCS Member School or Homeschool Group.
- Homeschoolers are required to follow the registration and payment procedures, conduct code, dress code, supervision requirements, and eligibility for multiple-entry guidelines for each competition.
- The following age-based chart will be used to determine into which grade/level a homeschooler may enter in the Creative Writing Festival. An active school year runs from September 1st – July 1st.
 - **1st grade:** student is six (6) years old on Sept. 1 of the active school year.
 - **2nd grade:** student is seven (7) years old on Sept. 1 of the active school year.
 - **3rd grade:** student is eight (8) years old on Sept. 1 of the active school year.
 - **4th grade:** student is nine (9) years old on Sept. 1 of the active school year.
 - **5th grade:** student is ten (10) years old on Sept. 1 of the active school year.
 - **6th grade:** student is eleven (11) years old on Sept. 1 of the active school year.
 - **7th grade:** student is twelve (12) years old on Sept. 1 of the active school year.
 - **8th grade:** student is thirteen (13) years old on Sept. 1 of the active school year.
- **Each individual homeschooler participant is permitted to enter one (1) piece per grade/division.** Entries will be accepted on a *first come, first served* basis.
- A maximum of two (2) TOTAL individual homeschool entries per grade/division will be permitted to enter in each Regional Festival (2 per grade, per region) and are registered on a *first come, first served* basis.

Awards

- Each participant whose piece is entered into the Regional Festival will receive a participation certificate.
- The following ribbons will be awarded to students based on the judges' evaluation score:
 - Blue Ribbon – Superior rating (90-100% of total possible points)
 - Red Ribbon – Excellent rating (75-89% of total possible points)
 - White Ribbon – Good rating (60-74% of total possible points)
- The entry with the highest rating score in each grade level and category which receives at least an "Excellent" rating at the Regional Festival will be sent automatically to the FACCS Creative Writing State Competition for judging.

Category Descriptions

- **Two Word Poem** (Grades 1, 2, & 3)
 - It MUST be written under the direct supervision of a teacher at school or parent educator.
 - The simplicity of two-word poem helps children to be descriptive in their poetic writing.
 - Each line contains only two words; the first two words are actually the title.

My father

Strong arms

Thin face

Definite opinions

Hard worker

Family man

- The poem can be any length as long as quality is maintained.
- The poem does not rhyme.
- The poem is not one long sentence divided into two-word units.
- A drawn or pasted illustration may be included but is not required.

- Entry may be mounted but is not required. (see *Mounting Procedures*)
- For specific typing requirements, see *Typing Procedures*.

▪ **Sense Poem** (Grades 1, 2, & 3)

- It **MUST** be written under the direct supervision of a teacher at school or parent educator.
- Choose a human emotion or another abstract idea. Think about it and experience it with all five senses.
- Write a line that tells what color it is (only one color may appear in the first line).
- Then write other lines to describe it using just one of the senses.
- Structure:

(Topic) is _____ *(color)*

It tastes like _____ *(taste)*

It smells like _____ *(smell)*

And reminds me of _____ *(sight)*

It sounds like _____ *(sound)*

(Topic) **makes me feel like** _____ *(feel)*

- Each poem must follow the exact structure and wording listed above.
- Do not include the above italicized words in parentheses on the final product.
- No punctuation appears at the end of each line.
- Sample:

Joy is bright green

It tastes like orange juice

It smells like sunshine

And reminds me of fireworks

It sounds like a crackling fire

Joy makes me feel like giggling

- A drawn or pasted illustration may be included but is not required.
- Entry may be mounted, but is not required. (see *Mounting Procedures*)
- For specific typing requirements, see *Typing Procedures*.

▪ **Short Story** (Grades 1-8)

- It **MUST** be written under the direct supervision of a teacher at school or parent educator.
- The story may be true to life or purely fictional. It may deal with a spiritual or historical topic and may also include personal experience, fantasy, mystery, or comedy.
- For 1st and 2nd grade students, length must be between 100 and 1000 words.
- For 3rd and 4th grade students, length must be between 300 and 1500 words.
- For 5th-8th grade students, length must be between 500 and 1500 words.
- Short story entries must include a word count at the end of the piece.
- A drawn or pasted illustration may be included but is not required.
- Short Story entry may **NOT** be mounted or framed.
- For specific typing requirements, see *Typing Procedures*.

- **Haiku** (Grades 4 & 5)
 - It **MUST** be written under the direct supervision of a teacher at school [or parent educator](#).
 - The Japanese have written Haiku poetry for many hundreds of years. A Haiku is very delicate, like a single violet blossom in your hand or a baby chick just born. Many times, Haiku are written with a particular season of the year in mind -- spring, summer, autumn, or winter.
 - Haiku must be written about something in the realm of nature, primarily a natural phenomenon.
 - Haiku are only three lines long. Each line has a specified number of syllables, which total seventeen syllables.
 - Line 1.....5 syllables**
 - Line 2.....7 syllables**
 - Line 3.....5 syllables**
 - None of the lines rhyme in Japanese or English.
 - No punctuation is used.
 - Sample:
 - Snowy ice fingers** (5 syllables)
 - Reaching to the winter sky** (7 syllables)
 - In search of springtime** (5 syllables)
 - Do not include the italicized words in parentheses in the final product.
 - **An illustration pertaining to nature always accompanies the Haiku.** This picture may be drawn by the student or cut from a book or magazine and neatly presented onto the final piece.
 - Entry may be mounted, but is not required. (see *Mounting Procedures*)
 - For specific typing requirements, see *Typing Procedures*.

- **Elementary Poetry** (Grades 4 & 5)
 - It **MUST** be written under the direct supervision of a teacher at school [or parent educator](#).
 - The participant may use any “one” of the poetic forms to write this poem.
 - The poem must address [one \(1\)](#) of the specified topics to be released by [FACCS](#) each school year on the Creative Writing web page.
 - Entries must be between 75 and 200 words in length.
 - The main judging criteria will be the content, originality and communication of the piece. Mechanics, such as spelling, punctuation, paragraph structure, poetic form, neatness, etc., are secondary criteria.
 - Poetry entries must include a word count at the end of the piece.
 - Illustrations may **NOT** be included with this poem.
 - Entry may be mounted but is not required. (see *Mounting Procedures*)
 - For specific typing requirements, see *Typing Procedures*.

- **Elementary Essay** (Grades 4 & 5)
 - It **MUST** be written under the direct supervision of a teacher at school [or parent educator](#).
 - The essay must address “one” of the specified topics to be released by [FACCS](#) each school year on the Creative Writing web page.
 - The essay must be written in first or third person (not second person).

- The participant should first write a "rough draft" copy and make corrections himself. Then he may proceed to write a final copy.
- Research may be done outside of class, but no notes may be used during the writing period.
- The time limit for writing the essay is 90 minutes. Additional time may be given only to re-copy the manuscript neatly.
- Elementary Essay entries must be between 100 and 1500 words in length.
- Only the title and body of the essay should appear on the first page. Do NOT type the participant's name and other information on the front of the first page.
- All required participant and school information must be written on the back of the last sheet.
- A cover or title page is not permitted.
- For specific typing requirements, see *Typing Procedures*.
- If the participant uses more than one piece of paper, each additional page should have the page number at the top right corner.
- Staple pages together.
- Essay entries must include a word count at the end of the piece.
- The main judging criteria will be the content, originality and communication of the piece. Mechanics, such as spelling, punctuation, paragraph structure, poetic form, neatness, etc., are secondary criteria.
- Illustrations may NOT be included with this essay.
- Essay may NOT be mounted or framed.

▪ **Middle School Scripture Poem** (Grades 6, 7, & 8)

- It MUST be written under the direct supervision of a teacher at school or parent educator.
- A Scripture Poem is written about the truth presented in one particular verse of Scripture, not a passage.
- The beginning letter of each line of the poem must be the same as that of the corresponding letters from the name of the book of the Bible that is listed vertically.
- In the number section of the reference, syllables must match. If the reference begins with a I, II, or III (ex. I Timothy or III John) , that line may be left empty or the student may use the corresponding number of syllables.
- The verse must be typed at the bottom of the page (King James Version **ONLY**)
- *Sample next page*
- Sample: *The reference is typed vertically.*

R	Raging conflict within us	
O	only leads to death.	
M	Mercy abounding, the Messiah	
A	atones.	
N	New hope for	
S	sinners.	
6:	God's unspeakable gift	<i>(6 syllables)</i>
2	New life	<i>(2 syllables)</i>
3	Eternal	<i>(3 syllables)</i>

Romans 6:23 "For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord."

- Do not include above italicized words in parentheses in final product.
- A drawn or pasted illustration may be included but is not required.

- Entry may be mounted but is not required. (see *Mounting Procedures*)
 - For specific typing requirements, see *Typing Procedures*.
- **Middle School Poetry** (Grades 6, 7 & 8)
 - It **MUST** be written under the direct supervision of a teacher at school or parent educator.
 - The participant may use any poetic form to write this poem.
 - The poem must address “one” of the specified topics to be released by **FACCS** each school year on the Creative Writing web page.
 - Entries must be between 250 and 300 words in length.
 - The main judging criteria will be the content, originality and communication of the piece. Mechanics, such as spelling, punctuation, paragraph structure, poetic form, neatness, etc., are secondary criteria.
 - Poetry entries must include a word count at the end of the piece.
 - Illustrations may **NOT** be included with this poem.
 - Entry may be mounted but is not required. (see *Mounting Procedures*)
 - For specific typing requirements, see *Typing Procedures*.
- **Middle School Essay** (Grades 6, 7 & 8)
 - It **MUST** be written under the direct supervision of a teacher at school or parent educator.
 - The essay must address “one” of the specified topics to be released by **FACCS** each school year on the Creative Writing web page.
 - The essay must be written in first or third person (not second person).
 - The participant should first write a "rough draft" copy and make corrections himself. Then he may proceed to write a final copy.
 - Research may be done outside of class, but no notes may be used during the writing period.
 - The time limit for writing the essay is 90 minutes. Additional time may be given only to re-copy the manuscript neatly.
 - Middle School Essay entries must be between 250 and 1500 words in length.
 - Only the title and body of the essay should appear on the first page. Do **NOT** type the participant’s name and other information on the front of the first page.
 - All required participant and school information must be written on the back of the last sheet.
 - A cover or title page is not permitted.
 - For specific typing requirements, see *Typing Procedures*.
 - If the participant uses more than one piece of paper, each additional page should have the page number at the top right corner.
 - Staple pages together.
 - Essay entries must include a word count at the end of the piece.
 - The main judging criteria will be the content, originality and communication of the piece. Mechanics, such as spelling, punctuation, paragraph structure, poetic form, neatness, etc., are secondary criteria.
 - Illustrations may **NOT** be included with this essay.
 - Essay may **NOT** be mounted or framed.

Procedures

- **Mounting Procedures**
 - All poetry entries may be mounted, but mounting is not required.
 - Mounting is securely attaching the piece to a backing.
 - The backing can be any type of attractive mounting material such as construction paper, card stock, poster board, mat board or other suitable backing materials.
 - The maximum size of the complete piece (including mounting) may not exceed 12” x 15”

- While elaborate mounting will not positively affect the score, sloppiness will negatively affect the score.
- Framing is not acceptable mounting and may not be used in ANY category.
- **Typing Procedures** - *applicable to ALL entries in ALL categories and grades.*
 - Students are to write their pieces under teacher or [parent educator](#) supervision.
 - Entries may be judged on the school level without being typed.
 - Pieces selected to be submitted to FACCS MUST be typed by a school official, teacher, or [parent educator](#) and presented for judging.
 - No grammatical or spelling errors may be corrected by the typist. If a word processing program is being used, automatic grammar and spelling correction should be turned off before re-typing the participant's entry.
 - Entries should follow these formatting rules:
 - typed on standard, plain, white, 8.5" x 11" paper
 - no lines or colored paper
 - one (1) inch margin on all four sides
 - colored ink may be used, but colors should not vary excessively
 - approved fonts:
 - Arial
 - Tahoma
 - Verdana
 - Times New Roman
 - Courier New
 - font sizes:
 - Short Story and Essays - 12 point font size (*no smaller or larger*)
 - All Poetry & Haiku - font size may vary for effect
 - refrain from using bold or italics
 - poetry entries may be justified center, but is not required
 - essay and short story entries must be justified left
 - line spacing may vary for poetry entries
 - line spacing must be double-spaced for essay and short story
 - All entries must include the author's name, grade level, entry category, school's name (or "Homeschooler"), address, and [Region number](#) on the back of the final page **ONLY** of each piece.
 - Essay, poetry, and short story entries must also include a word count at the end of the piece.
 - If time permits, entries that do not follow ALL of the above guidelines will be returned to the school or [parent educator](#) for correction. If time does not permit entries to be mailed for correction, the entry will be judged and rated; however, the entry will not be eligible to move on to the State Competition.

FACCS Creative Writing State Competition

Description of Event

- The FACCS Creative Writing State Competition is for participants who were rated the highest in their grade and category in the FACCS Regional Creative Writing Festival.
- The highest rated entry that followed all guidelines properly will be sent automatically to the State competition by the Regional Event Coordinator.
- All rules, guidelines, and procedures from the Regional Festival will be followed in the FACCS Creative Writing State Competition.

Eligibility of Contestants

- The entry with the highest rating score in each grade level and category which receives at least a “Excellent” rating at the Regional Creative Writing Festival will automatically be sent to the FACCS Creative Writing State Competition for judging.

Awards

- All participants will receive a participation certificate.
- Ribbons will be awarded to those who place first, second, and third in each grade and category.
- All winning entries will be published on the FACCS web site.



Creative Writing Specific Poetry Judging Sheet

Two-Word Poem
 Sense Poem
 Haiku
 Scripture Poem
Check the appropriate category

Student Name _____ Grade _____

School Name and Address _____

Title of Piece _____ Word Count _____

1. Originality and Communication:

- | | | |
|---|-------------|-------|
| a. Does the poem have a creative approach to a topic? | (10 points) | _____ |
| b. Are the themes of the poem structured effectively? | (10 points) | _____ |
| c. Rate the overall impact of this piece. | (20 points) | _____ |

Possible: 40 points **Total:** _____

Comments:

2. Style:

- | | | |
|--|-------------|-------|
| a. Is the piece true to the rules that govern this particular style of writing? | (20 points) | _____ |
| b. Are the elements unique to this style of writing used in an effective manner? | (20 points) | _____ |

Possible: 40 points **Total:** _____

Comments:

3. Writing Mechanics:

- | | | |
|---|-------------|-------|
| a. Are the spelling, capitalization, and punctuation correct? | (10 points) | _____ |
| b. Is word choice used effectively? | (5 points) | _____ |
| c. Is the piece neatly typed following all guidelines? | (5 points) | _____ |

Possible: 20 points **Total:** _____

Comments:

Total Points Scored (100 possible) _____

Rating:
 Superior (90-100)
 Excellent (75-89)
 Good (60-74)

Judge's Signature: _____



Creative Writing

Elementary and Middle School Poetry Judging Sheet

Elementary Poetry *Middle School Poetry*
Check the appropriate category

Student Name _____ Grade _____

School Name and Address _____

Title of Piece _____ Word Count _____

1. Originality, Content, and Communication:

- a. Does the poem have a creative approach to the topic? (20 points) _____
- b. Does the versification offer coherence with the theme? (20 points) _____
- c. Is the reader left with a "finished" feeling? (5 points) _____
- d. Level of work (10 points) _____

Possible: 55 points **Total:** _____

Comments:

2. Poetry Mechanics:

- a. If the poem is in rhyme, is the rhyme structure correct? If the poem is not in rhyme, are poetic devices appropriately used? (5 points) _____
- b. Is the meter consistent throughout and appropriate for the subject/mood? If there is no meter, does the poem flow? (5 points) _____
- c. Does the poet have a feeling for sound devices other than rhythm and rhyme (such as alliteration, assonance, consonance, refrain, etc.)? (5 points) _____
- d. Does the poet use imagery (including figures of speech), and is it used effectively? (5 points) _____
- e. Is the versification structure correct? (5 points) _____

Possible: 25 points **Total:** _____

Comments:

3. Writing Mechanics:

- a. Are the spelling, capitalization, and punctuation correct? (5 points) _____
- b. Is the poem consistent in tense? (5 points) _____
- c. Is the point of view consistent throughout? (5 points) _____
- d. Is the piece neatly typed following all guidelines? (5 points) _____

Possible: 20 points **Total:** _____

Comments:

Total Points Scored (100 possible) _____

Rating: Superior (90-100) Excellent (75-89) Good (60-74)

Judge's Signature: _____



Creative Writing

Elementary and Middle School Essay Judging Sheet

Elementary Essay *Middle School Essay*
Check the appropriate category

Student Name _____ Grade _____

School Name and Address _____

Title of Piece _____ Word Count _____

1. Originality and Communication:

- a. Does the essay have a creative approach to a topic or story? (30 points) _____
- b. Do vocabulary and word usage enhance the piece? (5 points) _____
- c. Is the reader left with a "finished" feeling? (5 points) _____

Possible: 40 points **Total:** _____

Comments:

2. Content:

- a. Is there effective paragraphing, including strong introduction/conclusion? (10 points) _____
- b. Is the main idea (thesis) developed effectively throughout the essay? (15 points) _____
- c. Is the point of view consistent throughout the essay? (5 points) _____

Possible: 30 points **Total:** _____

Comments:

3. Writing Mechanics:

- a. Are the spelling, capitalization, and punctuation correct? (10 points) _____
- b. Is paragraphing appropriate and correct? (5 points) _____
- c. Is sentence structure correct? (5 points) _____
- d. Is the essay consistent in tense? (5 points) _____
- e. Is the piece neatly typed following all guidelines? (5 points) _____

Possible: 30 points **Total:** _____

Comments:

Total Points Scored (100 possible) _____

Rating: Superior Excellent Good
(90-100) (75-89) (60-74)

Judge's Signature: _____