



Regional and IACCS/FACCS Creative Writing Manual

IACCS/FACCS are delighted to offer competitions for our Elementary, Middle School, and High School students. These competitions are designed for the purpose of allowing our students to gain valuable experiences through the process of competition and evaluation. We want our 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

- IACCS/FACCS competitions are only open to students who are enrolled in a IACCS or IACCS/FACCS member school or home school group.
- Home school students who are not in an IACCS/FACCS member home school group may participate in IACCS/FACCS competitions under the umbrella of an IACCS or FACCS member school if they have completed all requirements of that school to participate in the school's programs. Please contact the school for more information.
- It is the school's responsibility to register students for competition. Any registration received from a student separate from the school registration will be declined.
- Please follow all registration and entry deadlines. Due to scheduling and judging constraints, late registration entries will not be accepted.

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, 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 IACCS/FACCS competitions are available separately at www.IACCS.org and www.FACCS.org

Competition Rulings

- All IACCS/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. IACCS/FACCS Event Coordinator - *call your school for the contact information*

3. IACCS/FACCS Office of Program Services - visit www.IACCS.org or 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

- IACCS/FACCS schools are to conduct their own school-level creative writing festivals prior to the Regional Creative Writing Festival. **All pieces MUST be written under the direct supervision of a teacher at school.** Schools will then be asked to judge each entry and submit their best entry from each grade and category to the Regional Creative Writing Festival.
- 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.
- **Each school is permitted to enter up to one (1) piece per grade level / per category.**
- Students may only use a King James Version Bible, a dictionary, and a thesaurus when writing their pieces.
- **All entries must be typed on plain, white paper by a school official or teacher EXACTLY as written by the student 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 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.**

Eligibility of Contestants

- This competition is designed for students in grades 1 - 8.
- Students must compete on the grade level in which they are enrolled in school.
- A participant may submit up to two (2) pieces of writing, but they must be in different categories.

Awards

- Each participant whose piece is entered into the Regional Creative Writing 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 Creative Writing Festival will automatically be sent to the IACCS/FACCS Creative Writing 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.
- 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.
- 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 *new for 4th-8th grades*)

- It **MUST** be written under the direct supervision of a teacher at school.
- The story may be true to life or purely fictional.
- The story may deal with a spiritual or historic 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.
- 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.
 - The student may use any “one” of the poetic forms to write this poem.
 - The poem must address one of the specified topics to be released by September 1 of each school year.
 - 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.
 - No illustration may 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.
 - The essay must address “one” of the specified topics to be released by September 1 of each school year.
 - The essay must be written in first or third person (not second person).
 - The student 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 student’s name and other information on the front of the first page.
 - All required student 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 student uses more than one piece of paper, each additional paper should have the page number at the top right corner of each page.
 - 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.
 - No illustration may 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.
 - 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)
 - *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 **sinner.**
6: **God's unspeakable gift** *(6 syllables)*
2 **New life** *(2 syllables)*
3 **Eternal** *(3 syllables)*

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.
- The student may use any poetic form to write this poem.
- The poem must address "one" of the specified topics to be released by September 1 of each school year.
- 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.
- No illustration may 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.
- The essay must address "one" of the specified topics to be released by September 1 of each school year.
- The essay must be written in first or third person (not second person).
- The student 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 student's name and other information on the front of the first page.
- All required student 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 student uses more than one piece of paper, each additional paper should have the page number at the top right corner of each page.
- 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.
- No illustration may 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 supervision.
- Entries may be judged on the school level without being typed.
- Pieces selected to be submitted to IACCS/FACCS MUST be typed by a school official or teacher 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 student'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 and address on the back of the final page 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 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 IACCS/FACCS Creative Writing Competition.

IACCS/FACCS Creative Writing Competition

Description of Event

- The IACCS/FACCS Creative Writing Competition is for students who were rated the highest in their grade and category in the IACCS or FACCS Regional Creative Writing Festival.
- The highest rated entry that followed all guidelines properly will automatically be sent to the state competition by the Regional Event Coordinator.
- All rules, guidelines, and procedures from the Regional Creative Writing Festival will be followed in the IACCS/FACCS Creative Writing 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 IACCS/FACCS Creative Writing 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 compiled into an electronic booklet and made available on the IACCS and FACCS web sites.



Creative Writing Short Story Judging Sheet

Student Name _____ Grade _____

School Name and Address _____

Title of Piece _____ Word Count _____

1. Originality and Communication:

- a. Does the piece have a creative approach to a topic? (15 points) _____
- b. Do vocabulary and word usage enhance the piece? (10 points) _____
- c. Is the reader left with a "finished" feeling? (10 points) _____

Possible: 35 points **Total:** _____

Comments:

2. Style:

- a. Is the plot/theme introduced and developed effectively throughout the story? (20 points) _____
- b. Is there logical paragraphing? (10 points) _____
- c. Is the point of view consistent throughout? (5 points) _____

Possible: 35 points **Total:** _____

Comments:

3. Writing Mechanics:

- a. Are the spelling, capitalization, and punctuation correct? (15 points) _____
- b. Is the sentence structure and grammatical usage accurate? (10 points) _____
- c. Is the piece neatly typed following all guidelines? (5 points) _____

Possible: 30 points **Total:** _____

Comments:

Total Points Scored (100 possible) _____

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

Judge's Signature: _____



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 (90-100) Excellent (75-89) Good (60-74)

Judge's Signature: _____