

# Young Writers' Showcase

## Sponsored by the

# Arkansas Literacy Association

Topic: Why I Love Arkansas

Compose a narrative writing piece that accurately reflects your thoughts on the topic.  
Your entry does not have to be part of a school assignment, but it can be.

**Grade Divisions: 1-3, 4-6, 7-9, & 10-12**

This year's winner will have an opportunity to compete at the state level!

**ALL ENTRIES ARE DUE BY JANUARY 15TH!**

**Please carefully read the Teacher's Guide for specific instructions.**

**Please send no more than three entries per teacher.**

Scoring rubrics are attached.

# Teacher's Guide

Dear Teachers,

Thank you so much for allowing your students to participate in the Young Writers' Contest this year! Please read over the following guidelines to help your students be successful in this project. We look forward to reading your students' entries! Thanks again for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

Arkansas Literacy Association

## **Guidelines:**

- The entry must be a narrative. The theme is “**Why I Love Arkansas.**”
- A student entry form must be completed and signed by a parent/guardian.
- To prevent bias in judging we ask that you DO NOT put names on the writing, but names MUST be on entry forms. Please attach the writing to the entry form (staple or paperclip it) if you are sending in a hard copy.
- A parent must sign in order for the child to participate. Please read the entry form carefully.
- All entries must be submitted through a teacher. If students work on their writing at home, they must bring it to school and submit it through a teacher.
- Entries may be no longer than 5 pages.

## **Reminders:**

- The idea of the contest is to showcase creative writers in your class. If you have taught narratives in your class, your student may enter a piece that was previously written within this school year. However, the writing does not have to be written as part of classroom instruction.
- Entry forms must be postmarked by January 15th.
- Only 3 entries per teacher will be accepted.
- Only 1 entry per student will be accepted.
- Allow students access to the scoring rubrics so they know what is expected.

**Most Important Rule:  
HAVE FUN AND BE CREATIVE!**

# Student Entry Form

## **Directions**

Please complete all information on this page. Please do not put your name or any other personal information on your writing. All entries will be assigned a number before scoring to ensure fairness.

## **Guidelines for Entries**

- Entries that do not follow all of the guidelines will be disqualified.
- No more than 3 entries per teacher.
- No more than 1 entry per student.
- Entries may be no longer than 5 pages.
- The entry form must be complete, and no personal information should be on the writing.
- Style points will be awarded.

## **Entry Information**

Please complete the following information.

First & Last Name of Student \_\_\_\_\_ Grade of Student \_\_\_\_\_

First & Last Name of Parent/Guardian \_\_\_\_\_

Student Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Student Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

School \_\_\_\_\_

School Phone \_\_\_\_\_

First & Last Name of Teacher \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher's e-mail \_\_\_\_\_

## **Student Agreement:**

I, (student's name) \_\_\_\_\_ have read all of the guidelines for the "Why I Love Arkansas" Writing Contest, and I agree to follow all of the guidelines established.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

## **Publicity Agreement**

I hereby give permission for the Arkansas Literacy Association to display the photo of me/my child in print media publications or on the Council's website, including any page on the site (Facebook), or in other Council publications without further notice. I also grant the Arkansas Literacy Association the right to edit the photo at its discretion. The student's name may be used online. I also give permission for the council to use first name, last name, and school district when submitting to local newspapers. It is understood, however, that once the photo is displayed on a website, the Council has no control over how the photo is used or misused by persons with computers accessing the Council's website. A parent must sign in order for the child to participate.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

## Writing Rubric

Student Grade Level \_\_\_\_\_

Student ID \_\_\_\_\_

Component	3	2	1
<b>Content</b>	Central idea is clear throughout the piece	Central idea shows some digression, but writer returns to the topic quickly	Central idea is unclear or not present
	Narrative structure is clear and moves sequentially and logically through time with few gaps (clear beginning, middle and end)	Narrative structure is noticeable, but reader may need to infer, sequential gaps are noted	Narrative lacks appropriate structure (off-mode), lacks events, vague or confusing
	Experiences, characters, setting and events are thoroughly developed	Experiences, characters, setting, and events are adequately developed	Experiences, characters, setting, and events lack development
	Effective use of a variety of narrative techniques that advance the story or illustrate the experience	Adequate use of a variety of narrative techniques that generally advance the story or illustrate the experience	Use of narrative techniques are minimal, absent, incorrect, or irrelevant
	Effective use of sensory, concrete and figurative language that clearly advances the purpose	Adequate use of a variety of narrative techniques that generally advance the story or illustrate the experience	Little or no use of sensory, concrete, or figurative language; language may interfere with the purpose
<b>Style</b>	Some episodes or reactions are elaborated with specific details	Contains a thorough list of episodes/events and/or reactions with some extensions	Contains a simple or incomplete list of episodes and/or reactions with no extensions, mostly general or underdeveloped
	Elaborate and vivid language is used throughout	Most elaboration is general, contains minimal depth	Lacks elaboration
	Rich vocabulary, beyond grade level expectations	Vocabulary appropriate for grade level expectations	Vocabulary is lacking, lower than grade level expectations

Component	3	2	1
<b>Presentation</b>	Typed standard with 1” margins, double spaced, two or fewer errors noted  <b>Grades 1-4 may handwrite and receive a 3 if all letters are neat and formed correctly. Correct use of spacing is also required.</b>	Typed or neatly handwritten with correct letter formation and spacing, 3-10 errors noted	Typed or handwritten with correct letter formation and spacing, more than 10 errors
	Cover or title page (cover/title page will not count as one of the essay pages)	Title at the top of first page, no cover or title page	No title for the story
	Pages numbered	Some pages numbered	No page numbers
<b>Mechanics</b>	Consistent use of spelling strategies	Limited evidence of spelling strategies	Little or no evidence of spelling strategies
	Consistent use of capitalization strategies	Limited evidence of capitalization strategies	Little or no evidence of capitalization strategies
	Consistent use of punctuation strategies	Limited evidence of punctuation strategies	Little or no evidence of punctuation strategies
<b>Usage and Sentence Formation</b>	Consistent agreement between parts of speech	Inconsistent agreement between parts of speech	Parts of speech show lack of agreement
	Variety of sentence structures and lengths are used correctly, including compound and complex ( <b>for appropriate grade levels</b> )	Some variety in sentence structures and lengths are observed	Sentence errors distract the reader, uses short, simple sentences