

## 2024 Creative Writing Contest Rubric for Grades 6-8

Element	Excellent - 4	Strong - 3	Fair - 2	Developing - 1
<b>Development and Organization:</b> the extent to which ideas are elaborated, using specific and relevant detail and organization to engage the reader.				
<b>Story Structure</b>	Establishes strong plot/setting/characters/point of view	Establishes plot/setting/characters/point of view	Some elements of story structure, little blending of dialogue and narration	Few/no story structure elements present
<b>Characterization</b>	Develops complex characters through dialogue, narration and action	Develops characters through dialogue, narration and action	Some character development	Characters are not developed
<b>Ideas /Settings</b>	Develops ideas and settings clearly and fully. Uses a wide range of relevant details to engage and orient the reader.	Develops ideas clearly; uses relevant details to engage the reader.	Develops ideas briefly; uses some detail to attempt to engage the reader.	Uses incomplete or undeveloped details. Does not engage the reader.
<b>Organization/ Sequence of Events</b>	Clear, purposeful sequence of events that unfold naturally. Uses appropriate transitions	Clear sequence of events that unfold naturally with appropriate transitions	Attempts to sequence events. The plot is hard to follow in some places	Unclear sequence of events
<b>Overall Presentation/ Impression *</b>	Unique and appropriate title, professional presentation	Appropriate title, neat presentation	Unoriginal title, some attention to presentation detail	Attention to presentation is minimal or does not exist

**Total Development/Organization Score ( 5-20 points) \_\_\_\_\_**

<b>Language Use:</b> the extent to which the writing reveals an awareness of audience and purpose				
<b>Description/ Word Choice</b>	Uses creative, concrete language; uses literary devices and rich sensory detail and precise vocabulary	Uses mostly creative, concrete language and effective word choices, literary devices and sensory detail	Some use of creative, concrete language and effective word choices, literary devices and sensory detail	Little use of concrete language and sensory details. Few effective word choices.
<b>Sentence Variety</b>	Well-varied sentence structure throughout	Good sentence structure and variety	Occasional use of sentence variety	Little sentence variety
<b>Voice/Sense of Audience</b>	Unique voice; strong sense of audience	Evident awareness of voice and audience	Some awareness of voice and audience	Mechanical/unsuitable voice; unaware of audience

**Total Language Use Score ( 3-12 points) \_\_\_\_\_**

<b>Conventions:</b> the extent to which the writing exhibits conventional grammar/spelling/word usage				
<b>Sentence Structure/Variety</b>	Well-varied, correct sentence structures throughout	Good sentence structure and variety	Occasional use of sentence variety. Some errors in sentence structure	Little sentence variety. Several errors in sentence structure appear.
<b>Grammar/ Punctuation</b>	Smooth, fluid error-free punctuation/grammar	Mostly correct grammar; errors do not interfere with communication	Errors occasionally interfere with communication; verb tense errors	Grammatical errors are awkward and interfere with communication
<b>Spelling and Word Usage</b>	Correct spelling; error-free word usage	Mostly correct spelling and word usage	Errors in spelling and word usage	Misspelled and misused words throughout

**Total Conventions Score: ( 3-12 points ) \_\_\_\_\_**

**Total of all scores ( 11-44 points): \_\_\_\_\_**

**Word Count (if short story) \_\_\_\_\_**