**Dear veteran creative writing student,**

**Below you will find the categories accepted for The Scholastics Writing Contest. Since the creative writing class will pay for your application, you have two options for submission. First, you can choose to submit up to 4 individual writing pieces. These submissions will be judged in those specific categories. Second, you can submit a writing portfolio. This can include up to 8 pieces of writing. Please note that the portfolio will be graded as a holistic body of work instead on individual pieces. In the past the majority of students decided to submit individually.**

**You will be asked to write at least two pieces of new writing and conference and polish existing pieces if you would like to submit them to the contest. Please challenge yourself, read and research past award winners on the website and establish an account immediately. In addition, I will be setting a deadline of December 1st for your final pieces. Therefore, you will have one month to complete your work and I will have at least a week to submit your final submissions. Since you must be sponsored by a teacher to submit, we work as a team with submissions, so I need to be part of your process.**

**Your DEADLINE is December 1, 2016**

**Writing Categories**

**INSTRUCTIONS FOR ALL WRITING CATEGORIES**  
• Submissions must be primarily in English.  
• Use a clear, standard font that is not excessively large or small.  
• The title should appear at the top of the first page; do not include a separate title page. Poems should be titled individually.  
• No identifying information, including the student’s name, should appear anywhere on the manuscript.  
• Please use fictional names for real people in non-fiction works  
• No illustrations, photographs, graphics or hyperlinks are permitted.  
• Sources must be cited. Footnotes/works cited are not considered part of the word count.  
• Collaborative works are not allowed in any writing categories.

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**Critical Essay**

**Category Description**  
Writing intended to inform or convince a reader about a specific idea or topic, such as art or media reviews, persuasive essays, opinion essays, etc.

**Special Instructions**  
Sources must be cited. Footnotes/works cited are not considered part of the word count.

[**Click here to see examples of previous winning works in this category.**  
(This will open in a new tab)](http://www.artandwriting.org/student-showcase/award-winning-works/#writing=Persuasive+Writing&art_portfolio=false&writing_portfolio=false&year=2014&state=All&awards=C&awards=B&grade=0)

**Limits**  
500–3,000 words.

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**Dramatic Script**

**Category Description**  
Work that uses dialogue, action and stage direction to tell a story, including scripts for television, film, or stage.

**Special Instructions**  
Excerpts can be submitted, but should be clearly labeled as excerpts.

[**Click here to see examples of previous winning works in this category.**  
(This will open in a new tab)](http://www.artandwriting.org/exhibitions/online-galleries/#writing=Dramatic+Script&art_portfolio=false&writing_portfolio=false&year=2013&state=All&awards=C&awards=B&grade=0)

**Limits**  
Dramatic Script entries may be up to 25 pages long.

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**Flash Fiction**

**Category Description**  
Highly-focused stories characterized by brevity.

**Special Instructions**  
Please note word length for Flash Fiction compared to Short Story. Stories in which humor or science fiction/fantasy are key elements should be submitted in those respective categories.

[**Click here to see examples of previous winning works in this category.**  
(This will open in a new tab)](http://www.artandwriting.org/exhibitions/online-galleries/#writing=Flash+Fiction&art_portfolio=false&writing_portfolio=false&year=2013&state=All&awards=C&awards=B&grade=0)

**Limits**  
Maximum 1,000 words

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**Humor**

**Category Description**  
Writing that uses comedic forms such as jokes, satire, farce, irony, parody, absurdity,  comedic anecdote, etc.

**Special Instructions**  
All work in which humor is the key element should be submitted in this category.

[**Click here to see examples of previous winning works in this category.**  
(This will open in a new tab)](http://www.artandwriting.org/exhibitions/online-galleries/#writing=Humor&art_portfolio=false&writing_portfolio=false&year=2013&state=All&awards=C&awards=B&grade=0)

**Additional Instructions**  
500 – 3,000 words

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**Journalism**

**Category Description**  
Writing that informs and educates about newsworthy topics or current events, characterized by a presentation of facts or description of events.

**Examples (including but not limited to)**  
Writing intended for publication in newspapers, magazines or online media and characterized by a presentation of facts or description of events.

**Special Instructions**  
Works cited are not considered part of the word count.

[**Click here to see examples of previous winning works in this category.**  
(This will open in a new tab)](http://www.artandwriting.org/exhibitions/online-galleries/#writing=Journalism&art_portfolio=false&writing_portfolio=false&year=2013&state=All&awards=C&awards=B&grade=0)

**Limits**  
500–3,000 words.

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**Novel Writing**

**Category Description**  
A long form prose narrative. Please submit an excerpt no longer than 50 pages, and follow the instructions below.   
  
1. Submissions must be uploaded to your student account at www.artandwriting.org/studen/login AND printed and mailed to the address below with the submission form.  
2. Printed work must be double-spaced in 12-point font with one-inch margins   
3. The title of the work should appear at the top of the first page only. Do not use a separate title page.  
4. The student’s name and school must NOT appear on the manuscript.  
5. Adaptations of or sequels to existing published series are not accepted.  
6. Due to the large volume of submissions, we’re unable to give feedback on manuscripts.  
  
Novel submissions must include an outline of 500 words or less (up to two pages) of the entire novel. The outline is meant to provide readers with an understanding of the full scope and plot of your novel. It does not count toward the maximum page limit.  
  
One submission will be selected to receive professional feedback from with an Editor at PUSH, an imprint of Scholastic.    
  
Email info@artandwriting.org if you have questions.

[**Click here to see examples of previous winning works in this category.**  
(This will open in a new tab)](http://www.artandwriting.org/exhibitions/online-galleries/#writing=Novel+Writing&art_portfolio=false&writing_portfolio=false&year=2013&state=All&awards=C&awards=B&grade=0)

**Additional Instructions**  
Submission forms for Novel Writing MUST be postmarked by December 16, 2015 and sent to: Alliance for Young Artists & Writers, Attn: Novel Writing Submission, 557 Broadway, New York, NY 10012 The submission fee for novel entries is $5. Please make checks payable to Alliance for Young Artists & Writer

**Limits**  
An excerpt up to 50 pages (do not include the outline in the page count).

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**Personal Essay / Memoir**

**Category Description**  
A non-fiction work based on opinion, experience, and/or emotion that explores a topic or event of importance to the author.

**Special Instructions**  
Essays in which humor is the key element should be submitted to the humor category.

[**Click here to see examples of previous winning works in this category.**  
(This will open in a new tab)](http://www.artandwriting.org/exhibitions/online-galleries/#writing=Personal+Essay%2FMemoir&art_portfolio=false&writing_portfolio=false&year=2013&state=All&awards=C&awards=B&grade=0)

**Limits**  
500–3,000 words.

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**Poetry**

**Category Description**  
Writing in verse. May include but is not limited to prose poetry, free verse, formal poetry, song lyrics, and spoken word.

**Special Instructions**  
Each submission may consist of 1–5 poems, which will be judged as a collection. Students may submit more than one collection, but must register each separately.

[**Click here to see examples of previous winning works in this category.**  
(This will open in a new tab)](http://www.artandwriting.org/exhibitions/online-galleries/#writing=Poetry&art_portfolio=false&writing_portfolio=false&year=2013&state=All&awards=C&awards=B&grade=0)

**Limits**  
20–200 lines (total for the entire collection).

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**Science Fiction / Fantasy**

**Category Description**  
Writing that uses supernatural, magical, futuristic, scientific and technological themes as a key element of the narrative.

**Special Instructions**  
All work in which science fiction/fantasy is the key element should be submitted in this category, even if it would be applicable in another category. Do not base characters or plots on already published works (books, movies, comics, etc.).

[**Click here to see examples of previous winning works in this category.**  
(This will open in a new tab)](http://www.artandwriting.org/exhibitions/online-galleries/#writing=Science+Fiction%2FFantasy&art_portfolio=false&writing_portfolio=false&year=2013&state=All&awards=C&awards=B&grade=0)

**Limits**  
500–3,000 words.

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**Short Story**

**Category Description**  
A fictional narrative written in prose.

**Special Instructions**  
All stories that are 1,000 words or less should be submitted to the Flash Fiction category. Short Stories in which humor or science fiction/fantasy are key elements should be submitted in those respective categories.

[**Click here to see examples of previous winning works in this category.**  
(This will open in a new tab)](http://www.artandwriting.org/exhibitions/online-galleries/#writing=Short+Story&art_portfolio=false&writing_portfolio=false&year=2013&state=All&awards=C&awards=B&grade=0)

**Limits**  
1,000–3,000 words.

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**Writing Portfolio**

(For Graduating Seniors Only)

**Category Description**  
Writing Portfolios must include 4-8 different works from varying categories (outlined above) or from the same category.

Novels may not be submitted as part of a Writing Portfolio.

**Special Instructions**  
The word count for each piece submitted in a writing portfolio should adhere to the length limits listed in each individual category. The maximum length for a writing portfolio is 24,000 words (not including the table of contents or writer’s statement).

• The Writing Portfolio must include a writer’s statement. The statement should be 300-750 words and answer the following questions:  
Why did you select the work you submitted for your Writing Portfolio?  
How do you hope people will react when they read your work?  
What role does writing play in your life?  
• Students may submit individual pieces in their portfolios to be considered for individual awards. However, for a piece to be considered for an individual award, it must be separately registered in that category.  
• Seniors may resubmit artworks submitted in a previous Scholastic Awards competition as part of their Art Portfolio, but should note the previous title and award.

Graduating Seniors may submit TWO Writing Portfolio. Students may not submit the same work in both portfolios.