



2022 GUIDELINES FOR GCWA YOUTH WRITING CONTEST

- The Youth Writing Contest is open to any student 11-17 years of age. Entrants must be enrolled in a public or private school or home school program.
- All entries should be mailed to:

GCWA Writing Contest, P.O. Box 60771, Fort Myers, FL 33906
OR
emailed to specialprojects@gulfwriters.org (forms available online)
- Your entry must be original, in English, unpublished, and unproduced, not accepted by any other publisher or producer before April 1, 2022.
- Word count:
 - Fiction / Nonfiction—750 words maximum (includes essay, memoir and creative nonfiction).
 - Poetry – 40 lines maximum
- Youth submissions will be judged separately from the adult writing contest (see both sets of guidelines at www.gulfwriters.org/contest)
- If submitting by mail or in person, submit **three (3) copies**. Your submission(s) will not be returned.
- Entries must be postmarked or received electronically by 11:59 pm, January 31, 2022, and will not be accepted after that date.
- The decisions of the judges are final.
 - Judges will consider: creativity, structure, spelling, grammar, and punctuation. Visit our website <https://gulfwriters.org/contest/> for judging criteria forms.
 - Judges reserve the right to NOT select a winner if entries fail to meet quality criteria.
- Winners will be notified by email and US mail on or before March 31, 2022.
- The top three winning Youth submissions will be published on GCWA’s Website (& possibly the Ft Myers Magazine) with author permission.
 - GCWA has only first rights. Copyright and all other rights remain property of author.
 - Winners will be announced at the GCWA meeting in April, 2022.

- You may submit up to three, but you will only be awarded one prize if chosen. Entries should not contain any graphic violence or other inappropriate material.
- If submitting by mail or in person, entries must be typewritten only (handwritten submissions will be disregarded), 3 copies.
- Formatting:
For detailed formatting tips go to:
<https://gulfwriters.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/06/FormattingTips.pdf>
 - Font: Times New Roman, Font size: 12
 - Margins: top/bottom 1”, left/right 1”, text unjustified (ragged right margin).
 - Fiction/ Nonfiction: double spaced, single side on 8 ½ x 11 white paper. Indent first line of paragraphs.
 - No illustrations.
 - Poetry may be single or double spaced as best befits the work.
 - Judging is done by blind entry method. (DO NOT INCLUDE YOUR NAME ON ENTRY SUBMISSION PAGES.)
 - You must include the title of your entry on each page.
 - All pages must be numbered – bottom center of page.
 - If submitting by mail or in person, please staple each of your three copies of each entry in top left corner.
- Entry form:
 - Entry form should NOT be stapled to entry (Judging by blind entry method)
 - Author’s name (Pen names are allowed. We only need your real name if you are chosen as a winner – in order to issue prizes.)
 - You must complete one entry form for each piece/entry.
 - Each form must include your full mailing address, email (parent’s email is OK), and telephone number, school you attend (or name of the home school program you are enrolled in), the title of your work, and word count (fiction/nonfiction) or line count (poetry).