



## 2023 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 must be made online at [www.gulfwriters.org/contest](http://www.gulfwriters.org/contest). Entries must be in Word (.doc) format – **no exceptions**.
- Your entry must be original, in English, unpublished, and unproduced, not accepted by any other publisher or producer before April 1, 2023.
- 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](http://www.gulfwriters.org/contest))
- Entries must be received by 11:59 pm, January 31, 2023, 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 all entries fail to meet quality criteria.
- Winners will be notified by email on or before March 31, 2023.
- The top three winning Youth submissions will be published on GCWA’s Website (and 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 March 2023 and posted on our website by April 30, 2023.
- You may submit up to three entries, but you will only be awarded one prize if chosen. Entries should not contain any graphic violence or other inappropriate material.

- 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.

- Entry form:

- 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).