

## Writing Creative Non-Fiction Competition

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### Overview

This is an individual competition. The purpose of this competition is to promote original creative writing and illustrations, to develop presentation skills and to focus on the importance of using informative/explanatory writing to increase the understanding of the reader about a certain topic.

Creating an informational book will give you the opportunity to develop and learn key elements and vocabulary about a science or social studies topic and to share this information with an audience. This experience will also allow you to gain a deep understanding of the topic.

The first step is to decide what topic you would like to learn about. A list of topics is provided for you to choose from, however, you are not limited to those topics. If you are studying a topic of interest to you in science or social studies, then by all means pursue it!

The second step is to research and read about the topic, you will have a lot to write about. Suggestions for references would be 3 – 4 books on the topic and 3 – 4 websites.

The third step is to read, read, read the books and websites you have found on your topic. While reading write down important and interesting facts about what you are learning about your topic. From your notes, begin to organize the information in a way that you want to present it in your book. The content of your book must clearly reflect researched information that is accurate and informative.

Some suggested topics for informational books:

#### Science

1. Plants and Plant Growth
2. Animals and their needs
3. The Human Body
4. Seasons and Weather
5. Taking care of the Earth
6. Earth
7. Living Things & their Environment
8. Habitats
9. Oceans and Underwater Life
10. Environmental Change & Habitat Destruction
11. Matter
12. Electricity
13. Life Cycles
14. Water Cycle
15. Insects
16. Magnetism

#### Social Studies

1. Geography of Asia
2. Geography of Africa
3. Geography of North America
4. Geography of Europe
5. Geography of Antarctica
6. Geography of Australia
7. Geography of South America
8. Geography of Continental United States
9. Geography of Alaska
10. Geography of Hawaii
11. Native Americans, Past and Present
12. Early Exploration
13. Symbols and Figures of Democracy



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### Competition Guidelines

- A. Submit the Online Competition Entry Form by **5:00 pm on Friday, November 1, 2019**.
- B. This book should be written for a kindergarten-through-fifth grade audience (ages 5-11).
- C. Provide illustrations for each page (there should be a minimum of 12 illustrations in the book); they must clearly match the written content of the page.
- D. The illustrations you use may be produced by hand or traced; computer generated illustrations or photographs may be included.
- E. All illustrations have labels and/or captions.
- F. The written part of each page should be a paragraph.
- G. For your final version, you must produce a bound book.
- H. The book must include the following parts (1-6 below):
  1. A front cover containing the title, author and illustrator.
  2. A dedication page (optional)
  3. A glossary page
  4. A reference list (on a separate page) of the books/websites you used to create your book. A minimum of four references are required.
  5. A paragraph about yourself (“Author Bio”) on a separate page.
  6. A back cover
- I. The book includes 12 pages front only or six pages front/back (excluding the pages mentioned above in bullets 1-6).
- J. Proofread all work before final publication. Check for sentence structure, correct grammar and spelling.
- K. Use the checklist to help you to be sure you have included all the parts.
- L. Entries must be the student’s original work and not copied from any books, or from the Internet. Only one entry per student is allowed.
- M. All books must reflect original work from the 2019-2020 school year. Books that may have been created or submitted in previous years are ineligible.

### Judging and Scoring

- A. Competitors must be present at scheduled time or will be considered disqualified.
- B. The judges’ decisions are final.
- C. Scoring is based on the Writing Creation Non-Fiction Competition rubric.

### How to Enter

- A. A link to access the Online Competition Entry Form will be provided to the chapter’s advisor after all student members have registered to attend the conference via our Eventbrite page. Faculty advisors (not individual students) must complete and submit one form online.
- B. Entries submitted by email will not be accepted.
- C. Only two entries per chapter will be considered for this competition.
- D. Twenty-four (24) entries total will be accepted. Entries will be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis.
- E. All books will need to be removed from the competition room before the closing session.



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### Student Checklist for Information Book

#### **Cover**

- \_\_\_\_\_ Information book is securely bound
- \_\_\_\_\_ The cover is creative, colorful and vividly depicts the book content

#### **Parts of the Book**

- \_\_\_\_\_ Front cover has title, author and illustrator
- \_\_\_\_\_ Dedication (optional) – on a separate page
- \_\_\_\_\_ Glossary – on a separate page
- \_\_\_\_\_ List of References – on a separate page
- \_\_\_\_\_ Author Blurb (Bio) – on a separate page
- \_\_\_\_\_ Back cover

#### **Number of Pages**

- \_\_\_\_\_ The book includes 12 pages front only or 6 pages front/back

#### **Book Topic and Content**

- \_\_\_\_\_ Book topic and content match
- \_\_\_\_\_ The content of the book is accurate and informative

#### **Illustrations**

- \_\_\_\_\_ Creative and original
- \_\_\_\_\_ Illustrations explain and enhance the information on the page
- \_\_\_\_\_ All illustrations have labels and/or captions
- \_\_\_\_\_ There is a minimum of 12 illustrations in the book

#### **Sentence Structure, Grammar and Spelling**

- \_\_\_\_\_ Sentences are clear and well structured
- \_\_\_\_\_ There are no grammatical or punctuation errors
- \_\_\_\_\_ All words are spelled correctly

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Points Available	Accomplished 8 – 7	Commendable 6 – 5	Developing 4 – 3	Needs Improvement 2 – 1
Cover	Book is securely bound. The cover is creative, colorful, and vividly depicts the book content through quality pictures and/or drawings. Title, author and illustrator are all present.	Book is securely bound. The cover is creative and depicts the book content. Some pictures or drawings lack neatness. Title, author and illustrator are all present.	Book is bound. The cover somewhat depicts the book content. The pictures are grainy or are not arranged neatly. One of the following elements is missing: title, author or illustrator.	Book is bound. The cover does not depict the book content. Two or more of the following elements are missing: title, author or illustrator.
Parts	The book includes front and back covers, and the following pages: glossary, reference list and author bio.	One of the following elements/pages is missing: front cover, glossary, reference list, author bio or back cover.	Two of the following elements/pages are missing: front cover, glossary, reference list, author bio or back cover.	Three or more of the following elements/pages are missing: front cover, glossary, reference list, author bio or back cover.
Pages	Book includes 12 pages front only or 6 pages front/back (not including the pages mentioned above).	Book includes 9-11 pages front only or 5 pages front/back (not including the pages mentioned above).	Book includes 7-9 pages front only or 4 pages front/back (not including the pages mentioned above).	Book includes less than 7 pages front only or 3 pages front/back (not including the pages mentioned above).
Topic/Content	The book content is clear, focused and relevant to the topic. The book reflects evidence of researched topic; and the content is accurate and informative.	The book content is clear and relevant to the topic. The book reflects evidence of researched topic; and most of the content is accurate and somewhat informative.	The book content is somewhat clear. The book reflects some evidence of researched topic. Some of the content is accurate and informative.	The book content is not clear. There is little or no evidence of researched topic. Most of the content is inaccurate or vague.
Illustrations	Book includes 12 illustrations, and all have labels and/or captions. All illustrations display creativity and originality, support the text and enhance and explain the content.	Book includes 12 illustrations, and most have labels and/or captions. Most illustrations display creativity and originality, support the text and enhance and explain the content.	Book includes 8-10 illustrations, and some have labels and/or captions. Illustrations are somewhat creative and varied, and slightly support the text and enhance and explain the content.	Book includes less than 7 illustrations, and few have labels and/or captions. Illustrations lack variety and creativity, and do not support the text or enhance and explain the content.
Grammar, Spelling and Sentence Structure	Sentences are clear and well-structured. Writing is free of grammatical errors. All words are spelled correctly.	Sentences are clear and well-structured. Writing has almost no grammatical, spelling or punctuation errors.	Most sentences are clear and well-structured. Writing has a few grammatical, spelling or punctuation errors.	Sentences are unclear and poorly structured. Writing has many grammatical, spelling, or punctuation errors.