Writing Creative Non-Fiction Competition

Overview

This is an individual competition. The purpose of this competition is to promote original creative writing and illustration, 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 a digital, 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

This is an individual competition. Only two entries per chapter will be considered. Each chapter must select one or two students to represent them. Twenty-four (24) entries total will be accepted for this competition. Entries will be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis. Twelve (12) entries will be selected for a book read aloud during a Zoom session on the day of the event.

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Competition Guidelines

A. The sponsoring teacher must submit the Online Competition Entry Form *by 5:00 pm on Friday, October 30, 2020.*

B. This book should be written for a K-5 grade audience (ages 5-11).

C. All books should be created using the **free** StoryJumper digital story telling software. Visit the StoryJumper website to learn how to create a free StoryJumper book.

D. The written part of each page should be a paragraph.

E. The book must include the following parts:
   1. A front cover page 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 page.

F. The book must include 12 pages front only or six pages front/back (excluding the pages mentioned above in bullets 1-6).

G. Every page must have text and digital illustrations. There should be a minimum of 12 illustrations in the book and must clearly match the written content of the page. All digital illustrations must have labels and/or captions.

H. The story (script) and multimedia elements (illustrations, sound clips, and videos) used for the digital book should be original work and not copied from any books or from the Internet. Digital books prepared with original pictures taken by contestants' digital camera are accepted.

I. No copyright materials (images, digital illustrations, audio, video, characters, etc.) should be used in this book. If photos of students are used, contestants must have written parental permission as these books may be shared online.

J. All books must reflect work from the 2020-2021 school year. Books that may have been created or submitted in previous years are ineligible.

K. The contestant must submit the link to access the digital book *by 5:00 pm on Friday, November 6, 2020* via email to feaconference@fiu.edu. The contestant's full name and the name of this competition must appear in the email subject line. Links received after this deadline will not be considered.

L. Use this link to see instructions on how to generate a link to share your digital book.

Judging and Scoring

A. The judges' decision is final.
B. Contestants agree to be bound by the FEA General Competition Rules and Code of Ethics for Virtual Events and the decisions of the judges.
C. The entry will be scored using the Writing Creation Non-Fiction Competition rubric.

How to Enter

A. This is an individual competition. Books can only be authored by one contestant.
B. The sponsoring teacher must complete and submit the Online Competition Entry Form.
C. A link to access the form will be emailed to the sponsoring teacher after a group has been created on the Eventbrite registration site and the chapter sponsoring teacher has registered to attend the event.
D. Entries submitted by email will not be accepted.

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Student Checklist for Information Book

Cover

_____The cover includes the book title, author and illustrator.

_____The cover is creative, colorful and vividly depicts the book content

Parts of the Book

_____Front cover

_____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

Digital Illustrations

_____Creative and original

_____Explain and enhance the information on the page

_____All have labels and/or captions

_____There is a minimum of 12 digital 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	The cover is creative, colorful, and vividly depicts the book content through quality digital images/illustrations. Title, author and illustrator are all present.	The cover is creative and fairly depicts the book content. Some digital images/illustrations are not related to the book content. Title, author and illustrator are all present.	The cover somewhat depicts the book content. Most digital images/illustrations are not related to the book content. One of the following elements is missing: title, author or illustrator.	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 digital images/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 digital images/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 digital images/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 digital images/llustrations, 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.