

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 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, and 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

The books will be displayed during breakout sessions I and II on the day of the conference. Authors must stand next to their books and be prepared to answer questions from the on-site judges.

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.



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Competition Guidelines

- A. The sponsoring teacher must submit the [Online Competition Entry Form](#) **by 5:00 pm on Friday, October 27, 2023.**
- B. This is an individual competition. Books can only be authored **by one competitor.**
- C. This book should be written for a K-5 grade audience (ages 5-11).
- D. The written part of each page should be a paragraph.
- E. 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.
- F. The illustrations you use may be produced by hand or traced; computer-generated illustrations or photographs may be included.
- G. All illustrations have labels and/or captions.
- H. 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.
- I. The book must include 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 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 2023-2024 school year. Books that may have been created or submitted in previous years are ineligible.

Judging and Scoring

- A. Competitors must be present at the scheduled time or will be considered disqualified.
- B. The judges’ decision is final.
- C. Competitors agree to be bound by the FEA General Competition Rules.
- D. The entry will be scored using the Writing Creation Non-Fiction Competition rubric.

How to Enter

- A. All entries for individual and/or chapter competitions must be submitted by the chapter’s sponsoring teacher via the [Online Competition Entry Form](#) **by 5:00pm, on Friday, October 27, 2023.**
- B. 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

Illustrations

- _____ Creative and original
- _____ Explain and enhance the information on the page
- _____ All 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 16 – 13	Commendable 12 – 9	Developing 8 – 5	Needs Improvement 4 – 1
Cover	The cover is creative, colorful, and vividly depicts the book's content through quality illustrations. The title, author, and illustrator are all present.	The cover is creative and fairly depicts the book's content. Some illustrations are not related to the book content. The title, author, and illustrator are all present.	The cover somewhat depicts the book's content. Most 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's 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: the front cover, glossary, reference list, author bio, or back cover.	Three or more of the following elements/pages are missing: the front cover, glossary, reference list, author bio, or back cover.
Pages	The book includes 12 pages front only or 6 pages front/back (not including the pages mentioned above).	The book includes 9-11 pages front only or 5 pages front/back (not including the pages mentioned above).	The book includes 7-9 pages front only or 4 pages front/back (not including the pages mentioned above).	The 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 the researched topic. Most of the content is inaccurate or vague.
Illustrations	The 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.	The 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.	The 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.	The 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.