

# MUSIC COMPOSITION

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The science or art of arranging music by ordering tones or sounds in succession, in combination or in temporal relationships to produce a composition having unity and continuity.

## REQUIREMENTS:

1. Mail one original notarized composition.
2. The top page must include the contestant's name, page number and unit name and number.
3. The composition must be neatly and precisely written on music manuscript paper, in such a manner that any trained musician could perform the composition. Before submission, all electronically generated manuscripts (Finale, Sibelius, etc.) must be proofread to ensure proper quantization in the final print generated composition. All submissions must show competency in writing for the chosen medium.
4. The contestant must include a CD of the composition with the National Registration materials and bring a copy of the CD for the judges onsite at the Local and National competition.
5. The composition must not exceed five (5) minutes.
6. Students can perform their piece without an infringement on their interview time.

Contestants will be judged by the following criteria:

- Creative sense (10)
- Form (20)
- Harmonic and rhythmic interest (20)
- Strength of melodic line (20)
- Use of theory (20)
- Quality of transcript (10)

# ORIGINAL ESSAY

A brief examination of a subject in prose usually expressing a personal view or interpretation of a subject or topic.

## REQUIREMENTS:

1. One notarized copy of the original essay written only by the contestant should be submitted on or before the specified deadline. The top of each page must include the contestant's name, page number, and unit name and number.
2. The essay must be typed and double-spaced; not to exceed twelve (12) pages. The story must be typed, double spaced and between 500 and 3000 words.
3. The contestant must be prepared to answer questions by the judges.

## Contestants will be judged by the following criteria:

- General Merit (25)
  - Ideas
  - Organization
  - Wording
  - Flavor
- Mechanics (25)
  - Usage
  - Punctuation/Capitalization
  - Spelling
- Overall Effect (50)

# PLAYWRITING

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A literary composition developed for the stage.

## REQUIREMENTS:

1. Submit one original, notarized copy of a one-act play.
2. The play must be an original (written only by the contestant).
3. The play must be typed and double spaced, not to exceed twenty (20) pages.  
A one-page synopsis must be included.
4. The top of each page must include the contestant's name, page number and unit name and number.
5. The contestant must be prepared to answer questions by the judges.

Contestants will be judged by the following criteria:

- Characterization (10) – Is there a protagonist of some type? Is there an antagonist? Are the characters in the play developed? Are the roles defined?
  - Clarity (10) – Is the author's theme and purpose clearly stated?
  - Content (25) – Is the subject matter or situation of the play relevant, creative, and/or controversial?
  - Dialogue (10) – Is the word usage or phrasing consistent with the character? Does the dialogue advance the plotline or develop the character's background?
  - Mechanics (10) – Is the manuscript clearly typed? Are there errors in spelling and/or grammar?
  - Plot (25) – Has the storyline been clearly defined? Has the action of the play been chronologically developed? Is there evidence of:
    - Exposition
    - Climax
    - Complication
    - Conclusion
  - Style (10) – Has the playwright established a definitive method or style?
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# POETRY—WRITTEN

A composition, marked by language chosen for its sound, beauty, and evocative power.

## REQUIREMENTS:

1. Submit one notarized copy of the original poem.
2. The top of each page must include the contestant's name, page number and unit name and number.
3. Poems should be typed, using 12-point **Times New Roman, Verdana, Georgia, or Calibri**.
  - Please no other fancy typefaces or graphics. Poems should retain original form that they were created in and do not have to be double-spaced. Individual poems may be free verse or rhymed metrical poetry containing stanzas. Poems should not exceed 3 pages.
4. The contestants will be interviewed about their work by a panel of judges.

Contestants will be judged by the following criteria:

- Emotional Connection (20)- Is the poet emotionally connected to the topic they are writing about and does the poem elicit an emotional response from the reader?
- Original Thought (20) - Has the poet tackled an interesting subject or created something new with their work, or are they simply parroting belief systems or ideas that they have heard from someone else.
- Sequential Development (20) - Does the poem follow a distinct path or does it wander without every really getting to the point. Are there too many things going on in the poem? Is there a strong ending, or is it forced?
- Structure or Form, and Overall Presentation (20) - How is the poem constructed? Are there appropriate line and stanza breaks? Does the poem have a strong title? Does the poem contain appropriate grammar and punctuation?
- Use of language as it relates to theme (20) - Does the poet use figurative language including vivid imagery, similes, metaphors, hyperbole, or idiom? Is the voice active, are the senses engaged?

# SHORT STORY

A brief examination of a subject in prose usually expressing a personal view or interpretation of a subject or topic.

## REQUIREMENTS:

1. One notarized copy of the short story written only by the contestant should be submitted on or before the specified deadline. The top of each page must include the contestant's name, page number, and unit name and number.
2. The Short Story should have a single-story line without subplots, no more than three or four characters, a single viewpoint and a short time scale. The story must be typed, double spaced and between 500 and 3000 words. The submission should not exceed 12-pages.
3. The contestant must be prepared to answer questions by the judges.

Contestants will be judged by the following criteria:

- General Merit (25)
  - Ideas- single storyline, no subplots, 3-4 characters, single viewpoint (2 at most), short time scale
  - Organization – consistent writing style, consistent mood/tone and space
  - Wording – appropriate language, brief descriptions
  - Flavor
- Mechanics (25)
  - Usage
  - Punctuation/Capitalization/Spelling
- Overall Effect (50) – Minimum background, concise dialogue, no lengthy preamble, no contrived ending