

CHRISTIAN WRITING

PURPOSE: For students to express their spiritual experiences and insight in writing that is creative and pleasurable

PROCESS:

Each participant will:

- Be certain that the participant is registered for this event no later than the registration deadline.
- Mail the project and other material to the following address no later than the Pre-Convention Event Deadline (see submission guidelines below):

Center Road Church of Christ
ATTN: MWLTC Pre-convention Projects
899 W 300 S
Kokomo, IN 46902

The Event Coordinator will:

- Assume responsibility for the Mid-West LTC Christian Writing Event.
 - Find adult volunteers to evaluate the projects. Be certain that each project is evaluated by **at least** two judges.
 - Report results and provide critique sheets to the Awards Committee.
-

GUIDELINES:

Participant Eligibility

- This event is available to any registered student in grades 3 to 12.
- A participant may submit up to three writing projects for evaluation, however it is not necessary to send more than one. Multiple writing projects will be evaluated as a group and be eligible for only one award.

Writing Assignment

- Please address this year's MWLTC theme. You might consider the following questions as a basis for your work: What does this statement mean to you? How have you experienced God's eternal power in your life? What does this statement mean for the world, both believers and unbelievers?
- Writing piece(s) must be typed.

Suggested Forms of Writing

- *Expository Essay:* An essay that defends a thesis through the art of argument. Consider writing your interpretation of a Biblical story that illustrates this year's theme or explaining your understanding of this year's theme.
- *Personal Essay:* An essay that uses your life and experiences, particularly how you have experienced or how you understand this year's MWLTC theme.
- *Short Story:* Create a story, or retell a Bible story in your own words, or from a modern perspective, focused on this year's MWLTC theme.
- *Poetry:* You have several options. Lyric poetry reflects the world through your personal point of view; narrative poetry uses verse to tell a story; "objective" poetry describes the world in an impersonal voice (like haiku). Again, poetry should reflect this year's theme in some way.

Writing Tips:

- *Use of detail:* In expository essays, always explain why you believe something. Use illustrations and examples. In creative and personal writing, describe with specific detail, trying to create an experience in your reader's mind, with colors, sounds, textures, etc. Stories should use dialogue and develop believable characters.
- *Language:* Creative and vivid; correct use of words; grammatical correctness; use of figurative language (metaphors, similes, etc.). Poetry should have rhythm, although writing lines that end with rhymes is optional. The language of poetry should be dense, each word carefully considered.
- *Structure:* Every piece of writing should have a flow from beginning to middle to end that carries your reader through and holds his/her interest. Stories should have a carefully developed plot; essays a carefully ordered flow of ideas; poetry should also develop ideas in an orderly manner.

Submitting Project & Other Material

The following project material must be shipped to the address shown at the top of these rules no later than the Pre-Convention Event Deadline:

- The pages of the writing piece must be stapled together, with a cover sheet on top. (If two or three pieces are submitted, staple them separately with a cover sheet for each one.) Do not use a folder.
 - The cover sheet for each writing piece must be typed and include the following information:
 - a. Title(s) of entry
 - b. Participant name, age, and grade level
 - c. Participant's mailing address (and email, if available)
 - d. Home Congregation name, city, state
 - If receipt of confirmation is desired, please include a self-addressed stamped envelope or post card.
-

AWARDS:

Gold = 95 to 100

Silver = 85 to 94

Bronze = 75 to 84

Participant = 74 & less

EVALUATION CRITERIA:

See Christian Writing judging form for criteria and weighting. (Note that poetry has a separate judging form.)

Christian Writing

(Essays and Short Stories)

Judging Form // Revised 2008-09-11

Instructions for Judges:

- 1.Fill in student info in gray box.
- 2.Assign score for each criteria & calculate total.
- 3.Write additional comments.

Name:

Grade:

Gender:

Cong:

EVENT COORD:

FINAL AWARD

Adherence to Theme

Score: _____

9-10: The piece clearly relates to the current LTC theme and the author's vision of this theme is very clear.

8-9: The piece generally relates to the current LTC theme and/or the author's vision of this theme is somewhat clear.

7-8: The piece slightly relates to the theme and/or the author's vision of this theme is difficult to grasp.

0-7: The writing is not related to the theme and/or the author's vision is unclear.

Content

Score: _____

19-20: The main idea is very clear & focused. • The entire piece is logically & appropriately developed for the writing type.

17-19: The main idea is clear & focused. • Most of the piece is logically & appropriately developed for the writing type.

15-17: The main idea is somewhat clear and focused. • The piece needs more development for the type of writing.

0-15: The main idea is unclear and unfocused. • The piece lacks appropriate development for the type of writing.

Organization and Flow

Score: _____

14-15: The entire piece flows well and is well-organized with a beginning, middle, and end.

13-14: The piece generally flows well & is generally well-organized with a beginning, middle, and end, but may need better transitions.

11-13: The piece may not flow very well. There is not a clear beginning, middle, and end to the piece. May need better transitions.

0-11: The piece does not flow well; it may be choppy. The piece lacks organization. It may jump around or be difficult to understand.

Details and Word Choice

Score: _____

19-20: The details and word choice enable the reader to see, hear, feel, or think about the subject in a new way or in a more potent way than ever before.

17-19: The details and word choice enable the reader to see, hear, feel or think about the subject.

15-17: The details and word choice only somewhat enable the reader to see, hear, feel or think about the subject.

0-15: The details and word choice are limited & do **not** enable the reader to see, hear, feel or think about the subject.

Grammar and Spelling

Score: _____

9-10: Free of grammar or spelling errors.

8-9: Contains a few minor grammar or spelling errors that do not detract from the meaning.

7-8: Contains several minor grammar or spelling errors which are distracting.

0-7: Contains numerous grammar or spelling errors; appears that author did not proofread.

Creativity and Originality

Score: _____

9-10: Very original or imaginative; grabs reader's attention or is memorable due to the creativity.

8-9: Somewhat original or imaginative.

7-8: Minimal originality or imagination.

0-7: Not very original or imaginative.

Interest

Score: _____

14-15: Very interesting; holds reader's interest from beginning to end; like a good book you can't put down

13-14: Reasonably interesting; holds reader's interest from beginning to end.

11-13: Minimally interesting; holds reader's interest sometimes, but not throughout.

0-11: Lacks enough interest; reader has difficulty remaining interested.

PENALTIES (check any that apply):

___ Deduct 5 points if piece is not typed

___ Deduct 5 points if submission guidelines are not followed

Total Score: _____

0-74; 75-84; 85-94; 95-100

Judge's Comments:

Christian Writing

(Poetry)

Judging Form // Revised 2008-09-11

Instructions for Judges:

- 1.Fill in student info in gray box.
- 2.Assign score for each criteria & calculate total.
- 3.Write additional comments.

Name: _____
 Grade: _____ Gender: _____
 Cong: _____

EVENT COORD:
FINAL AWARD

Adherence to Theme

Score: _____

- 9-10:The piece clearly relates to the current LTC theme and the author's vision of this theme is very clear.
 8-9:The piece generally relates to the current LTC theme and/or the author's vision of this theme is somewhat clear.
 7-8:The piece slightly relates to the theme and/or the author's vision of this theme is difficult to grasp.
 0-7:The writing is not related to the theme and/or the author's vision is unclear.

Organization

Score: _____

- 14-15:The entire piece is well-organized. • The poetry style chosen is appropriate for the subject.
 13-14:The piece is generally well-organized. • The poetry style chosen is appropriate for the subject.
 11-13:The piece has minimal organization. • The poetry style chosen may not work well for this subject.
 0-11: The piece lacks organization. • The poetry style chosen may not work well for this subject.

Overall Rhythm and Flow

Score: _____

- 19-20:The rhythm and flow of the words is very pleasing. • Any sound devices used (rhyme, alliteration, onomatopoeia, etc.) were used effectively and enhanced the meaning.
 17-19:The rhythm and flow of the words is generally pleasing. Any sound devices used (rhyme, alliteration, onomatopoeia, etc.) were generally effective and somewhat enhanced the meaning.
 15-17:The rhythm and flow of the words is somewhat choppy. • Any sound devices used (rhyme, alliteration, onomatopoeia, etc.) may have been overused or failed to enhance the meaning.
 0-15: The words lack rhythm and flow; may be difficult to read aloud. • Any sound devices used (rhyme, alliteration, onomatopoeia, etc.) may have been significantly overused and/or detracted from the meaning.

Details and Word Choice

Score: _____

- 19-20:The details & word choice enable the reader to see, hear, feel, or think about the subject in a new way or in a more potent way than ever before.
 17-19:The details & word choice enable the reader to see, hear, feel or think about the subject.
 15-17:The details & word choice only somewhat enable the reader to see, hear, feel or think about the subject.
 0-15: The details & word choice are limited & do **not** enable the reader to see, hear, feel or think about the subject.

Mechanics

Score: _____

- 9-10: Free of grammar / spelling errors unless made intentionally to enhance the poetry. • Punctuation enhances conveyance of thoughts and images.
 8-9: Contains a few grammar / spelling errors (excluding intentional errors for enhancement). • Punctuation is meaningful throughout.
 7-8: Contains several grammar / spelling errors which are distracting or cause difficulty in understanding. • Some meaningful punctuation.
 0-7: Contains numerous grammar / spelling errors which are distracting or cause difficulty in understanding. • Arbitrary punctuation.

Creativity and Originality

Score: _____

- 9-10: Very original or imaginative; grabs reader's attention or is memorable due to the creativity.
 8-9: Somewhat original or imaginative.
 7-8: Minimal originality or imagination.
 0-7: Not very original or imaginative.

Interest

Score: _____

- 14-15:Very interesting; holds reader's interest from beginning to end; like a good book you can't put down
 13-14:Reasonably interesting; holds reader's interest from beginning to end.
 11-13:Minimally interesting; holds reader's interest sometimes, but not throughout.
 0-11: Lacks enough interest; reader has difficulty remaining interested.

PENALTIES (check any that apply):

- Deduct 5 points if piece is not typed
 Deduct 5 points if submission guidelines are not followed

Total Score: _____

0-74; 75-84; 85-94; 95-100

Judge's Comments (use back if necessary):