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# The Young Authors Contest

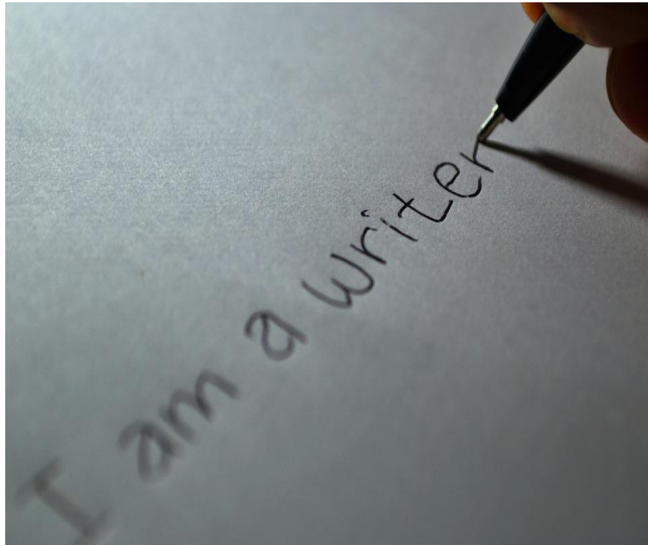


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## What is YAC?

YAC is a writing contest that anyone in Grades 3, 4, 5 or 6 can enter.





## There are four categories

1. Poetry
2. Personal Narrative
3. Argumentative (5th/6th only)
4. Creative Writing



# Poetry

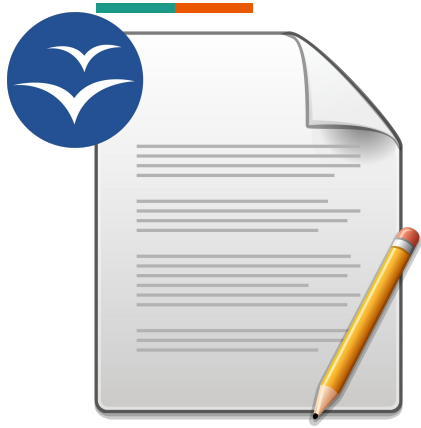
Let's take a minute and think about what poetry is . . .

1. Does a poem look the same on the paper as a story does?
2. Do all poems have to rhyme?
3. What are some important things to think about when writing a poem?



## Contest Rules for Poetry

- Any kind of poetry is OK.
- Poems must at least 8 lines long
- Typed on a Google doc
- Combinations of shorter poems may be used (for example three Haiku poems) to make the required number of lines.



## Personal Narrative

- A personal narrative is a true story about a small moment in your life
- Here are some ideas for a personal narrative story
  - First and last times
  - Embarrassing moments
  - Trouble stories
- Include story elements such as a problem, solution, and theme in your personal narrative



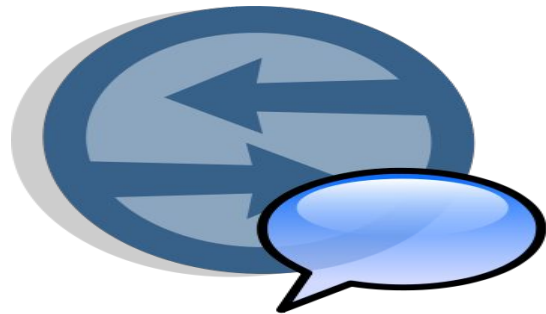
## Contest Rules for Personal Narrative

- A TRUE story about you
- Must fit on one side of one typed page
- 12 point Arial font
- 1 ½ or double spaced
- It can be shorter, but NOT longer than one page

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## Persuasive or Argumentative Writing

- This is an option only for grade 5 and 6.
- There are prompts to help you, in case you need some ideas.







# Contest Rules for Argumentative/Persuasive

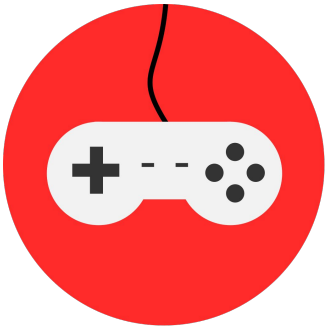
- Choose one of the prompts for your piece
- Typing must fit on one side of one typed page
- 12 point Arial font
- 1 ½ or double spaced
- Introduction
- Body Paragraphs with reasons and evidence
- Conclusion
- Acknowledge and respond to “counter arguments” (those who would oppose your stance)

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# Argumentative/Persuasive Writing Prompts

## Prompt One (1)

Should video games be considered a competitive sport?



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# Argumentative/Persuasive Writing Prompts

## Prompt Two (2)

Should kids get paid for doing chores at home?

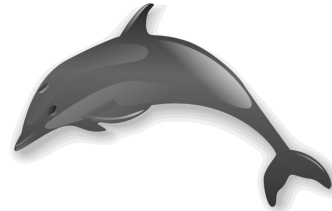


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# Argumentative/Persuasive Writing Prompts

## Prompt Three (3)

Should the government spend more money on exploring space or the ocean?



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# Argumentative/Persuasive Writing Prompts

## Prompt Four (4)

Your Own Topic. Choose to write about something you feel strongly about.





# Creative Writing

- These are imaginative stories
- You must use one of the four picture prompts
- When you use a picture prompt, remember, the idea is NOT to just describe the picture
- Use story elements (character, setting, problem, solution, theme)



## “HOOK” the Reader

### Avoid beginning with...

- “Once upon a time...”
- “One day...”
- “Hi, my name is...”

### Instead begin with...

- Action
- Dialogue
- Internal thinking



## Rules for Creative Writing

- Based on one of the picture prompts
- Must fit on one side of one page
- 12 point Arial font
- 1 ½ or double spaced
- Indicate which picture you are using



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## Picture Prompt #1





## Picture Prompt #2





## Picture Prompt # 3



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## Picture Prompt #4





## **One More Thing!**

The winning entries are published in a book. This book is called an anthology, and it contains ALL of the stories, poems, and personal narratives that have been written by the this year's contest winners.

# This is how your Google Document should look!

## Sample Entry

Event Date - May, 2021  
District Writing due - Feb. 5  
Due to CWTAG - March 5

1. Your entry must follow the guidelines on the sample below.
2. Type your entry in a Google Doc
3. Share it with your teacher and Advanced Learner Coordinator with editing rights when your entry is ready.

*\*\*Advanced Learner Coordinators: Visit the CWTAG Registration page to complete the student entry form (one per student) and share the students' writing (with editing rights) via Google Docs.*

Type your entry in a Google Doc. Share it with your teacher and GT Coordinator with **EDITING** rights.

Use the Arial font.

**The Wheelbarrow** (Title is in **BOLD**, size 16)

Margaret Johnson, Grade 4, Wausau, Creative Writing #4 (First name last name, Grade \_\_, District, Category, Arial, Size 12)

Skip a line before you start your writing.

Remember to indent your paragraphs.

Align your writing on the LEFT

"Wait!" I yelled to Sarah. "We're missing a necessary part." My friend and I had just finished building our first machine. Well, almost finished. (Your writing should be Arial, Size 12)

Don't forget the clip art. (It will only print in black & white.)

Are you writing a POEM? It must be at least 8 lines long (or three haikus.)

Read your writing out loud to check for errors. Also use spell check, but have an adult **DOUBLE** check your piece.

Your writing must fit on just **ONE** page.

One inch Margins on ALL sides

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**Sooooo ... To Wrap Things Up ...**





Do we have to enter?

*Ask your teacher*





## When are entries due?



Teachers need to submit entries as a Google Doc with editing rights to Mrs. Gavinski by February 4th.



Can I use my writing from  
writing workshop?



Yes! Any writing from this school year  
can be submitted. For example, you  
can submit your published personal  
narrative or argument writing.



*Happy Writing!!*

