

Pittsburgh CAPA 6–12

Audition Requirements by Art Form | 2026-27 School Year

Part One: Writing Portfolio

Students applying for the Literary Arts department at Pittsburgh CAPA 6–12 should submit a writing portfolio that includes:

- **Neighborhood Stories**

As writers we are influenced by the neighborhood we grow up in. In fact, the first stories that many of us put to paper concern our own neighborhood. Draft a true story about a memorable event that happened in your neighborhood. The story should include intimate details that will help the reader see, hear, smell and feel what it is like to live, hang-out, or visit your neighborhood. Make sure that by the end of the story the reader understands why this event was important to and how it changed the way you think, feel and see your neighborhood and the people in it. This story should be no longer than 750 words.

The goal of this task is to help applicants see their neighborhood as a source of identity and therefore inspiration for further observation and investigation. To help students not take for granted the power that their environment exerts on them. Prior to writing this essay read Brian Doyle's *Imagining Foxes* to help understand the type of story that this prompts asks applicants to write. You may access this essay at <http://brevitymag.com/nonfiction/imagining-foxes>.

- **Free Choice of Creative Writing**

This writing may be in any genre that you feel represents you and your best work as a creative writer. This should be one genre of writing: 2–3 poems (25 lines minimum for each poem) or 1–10 pages in length of prose or dramatic writing that you wrote on your own, not for a school assignment.

Include a cover sheet with the portfolio that includes the student's name, date, and the titles of the creative work. The student's name should only be on the cover sheet—do not include a name on the actual pieces of writing. Writing will not be returned and writing portfolios must be submitted via the online application by the deadline for Pittsburgh CAPA applications.

Part Two: Audition for Invited Students

Based on faculty review of writing portfolios, only select applicants will be invited to attend an audition. Writing portfolios will be judged on mechanical and stylistic elements, originality and creativity, the ability to write to a prompt, and the ability to use figurative language and storytelling elements in writing. The incoming literary arts classes will be selected from students invited to attend the audition. Selected applicants will be notified about the audition in writing and should plan to attend the literary arts auditions. Invited applicants can expect more details at the time of invitation to the audition.

Students should be prepared to engage in the following activities during the audition for literary arts.

- Be prepared to talk about yourself and your work. Think why CAPA Literary Arts.
- Be engaged and an active participant in the audition. We want you to talk. It is essential to talk during the audition.
- Practice reading the piece of writing you will share with the audition panel. Be familiar and comfortable reading your writing. This piece of writing should be from your writing portfolio that you submitted with your application.
- Be prepared to write a creative response to a prompt after reading a prose piece and discussing it.
- Ask questions. Find joy in the process.

Scoring:

Please review the Audition Scoring Guide, available on the Literary Arts department page of www.pghschools.org/caparegistration.

Length of Audition:
2.5 hours