

About the Categories

The Scholastic Awards offers 28 categories of art and writing. Submitted works are adjudicated against other entries submitted in the same category by students from the same grade group. Except when explicitly stated by the [local program guidelines](#), there is no limitation on the number of categories in which a student may submit their work, nor is there a limit on the number of works that students can submit in each category. (Note: The Art and Writing Portfolio categories are an exception; students may enter up to two art and two writing portfolios). The same three criteria are used when evaluating work in all categories: originality, personal voice or vision, and technical skill.

If you have a question about the appropriate category for your submission, please email info@artandwriting.org.

Art Categories

Architecture
Ceramics & Glass
Comic Art Design
Digital Art
Drawing
Fashion
Film & Animation
Jewelry
Mixed Media
Painting
Photography
Printmaking
Sculpture
Video Game Design*
Art Portfolio**

Writing Categories

Critical Essay
Dramatic Script
Flash Fiction
Humor
Journalism
Novel Writing*
Personal Essay/Memoir
Poetry
Science Fiction/Fantasy
Short Story
Writing Portfolio**

Please Note: Students may not submit the same work in different categories. Seniors may submit up to two Art Portfolios and two Writing portfolios.

*Only graduating seniors may submit Art & Writing Portfolios

**All Novel and Video Game Design submissions are judged through the national Scholastic Art & Writing Awards office. Please read the category description for information about where to send your forms.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR ALL WRITING CATEGORIES

- Use a clear, standard font that is not excessively large or small.
- The title should appear at the top of the first page; do not include a separate title page. Poems should be titled individually.
- No identifying information, including the student's name, should appear anywhere on the manuscript.
- No illustrations, photographs, graphics or hyperlinks are permitted.
- Sources must be cited. Footnotes/works cited are not considered part of the word count.
- Collaborative works are not allowed in any writing categories.

Critical Essay

Category Description

Writing intended to inform or convince a reader about a specific idea or topic, such as art or media reviews, persuasive essays, opinion essays, etc.

Special Instructions

Sources must be cited. Footnotes/works cited are not considered part of the word count.

Word Count

500–3,000 words.

Dramatic Script

Category Description

Work that uses dialogue, action and stage direction to tell a story, including scripts for television, film, or stage.

Special Instructions

Excerpts can be submitted, but should be clearly labeled as excerpts.

Word Count

Dramatic Script entries may be up to 25 pages long.

Flash Fiction

Category Description

Highly-focused stories characterized by brevity.

Special Instructions

Please note word length for Flash Fiction compared to Short Story. Stories in which humor or science fiction/fantasy are key elements should be submitted in those respective categories.

Word Count

Up to 1,000 words

Humor

Category Description

Writing that uses comedic forms such as jokes, satire, farce, irony, parody, absurdity, comedic anecdote, etc.

Special Instructions

All work in which humor is the key element should be submitted in this category.

Word Count

500 – 3,000 words

Journalism

Category Description

Writing that informs and educates about newsworthy topics or current events, characterized by a presentation of facts or description of events.

Special Instructions

Works cited are not considered part of the word count.

Word Count

500–3,000 words.

Personal Essay / Memoir

Category Description

A non-fiction work based on opinion, experience, and/or emotion that explores a topic or event of importance to the author.

Special Instructions

Essays in which humor is the key elements should be submitted to the humor category.

Word Count

500–3,000 words.

Poetry

Category Description

The poetry category includes but is not limited to prose poetry, free verse, formal poetry, song lyrics, slam poetry and spoken word.

Special Instructions

Each submission may consist of 1–5 poems, which will be judged as a collection. Students may submit more than one collection, but must register each separately.

Line Count

20–200 lines (total for the entire collection).

Science Fiction / Fantasy

Category Description

Writing that uses supernatural, magical, futuristic, scientific and technological themes as a key element of the narrative.

Special Instructions

All work in which science fiction/fantasy is the key element should be submitted in this category. Do not base characters or plots on already published works (books, movies, comics, etc.).

Word Count

500–3,000 words.

Short Story**Category Description**

A fictional narrative written in prose.

Special Instructions

All fictional stories that are 1,000 words or less should be submitted to the Flash Fiction category. Short Stories in which humor or science fiction/fantasy are key elements should be submitted in those respective categories.

Word Count

1,000–3,000 words.

Writing Portfolio (For Graduating Seniors Only)**Category Description**

Writing Portfolios must include 4-8 different works from varying categories (outlined above) or from the same category. Novels may not be submitted as part of a Writing Portfolio.

Special Instructions

- The word count for each piece submitted in a writing portfolio should adhere to the length limits listed in each individual category. The maximum length for a writing portfolio is 24,000 words (not including the table of contents or writer’s statement).
- The Writing Portfolio must include a writer’s statement. The statement should be 300-750 words and answer the following questions:
 - Why did you select the work you submitted for your Writing Portfolio?
 - How do you hope people will react when they read your work?
 - What role does writing play in your life?
- Work submitted in a portfolio may also be submitted for consideration within an individual awards. Make sure to indicate that you would like the work considered “As an individual submission and as part of a portfolio” on the dropdown menu provided next to the work on your student dashboard.
- Seniors may resubmit artworks submitted in a previous Scholastic Awards competition as part of their Portfolio.
- Seniors may submit **TWO** Writing Portfolio. Students may not submit the same work in both portfolios.