

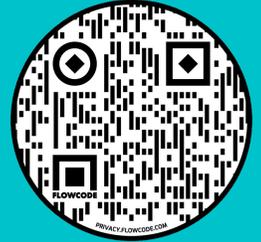
# 2021 YOUNG WRITERS CONTEST

FOR OKLAHOMA  
STUDENTS GRADES 6-12

SPONSORED BY THE  
OKLAHOMA COUNCIL OF  
TEACHERS OF ENGLISH

ENTRIES DUE  
JANUARY 15, 2021  
BY TEACHERS

<https://tinyurl.com/y6anto2a>



OKCTE invites the young writers of Oklahoma, grades 6-12, to enter the Young Writers Contest for a chance to have their work published in our annual anthology and celebrated in an awards ceremony.

When we write for publication, we write knowing that our words will find their way to readers hearts and minds. We write with an awareness of our mode of writing -- argument, informational, narrative. We write with form in mind -- paragraphing, stanzas, headings, bullet points, and panels. And we write attending to the smallest choices -- a period or semicolon, the power of parentheses to add information or interrupt a thought, the comma after that transition to signal the reader what's next, even a single word paragraph.

To enter the Youth Writers Contest, the writer's teacher will complete the [online entry form](#). The teacher must, prior to submitting the entry, confirm that the entry is original to the student and the the student and parents/guardian have given written permission for the publication of the entry in the 2021 Young Writers Anthology and on the Oklahoma Council of Teachers of English website.

Writers published in the anthology, their parents/guardians, and their teachers will be invited to an awards ceremony in April 2021.

Entry form:  
<https://forms.gle/gq3kPS3uZHZHux6b9>

*Anthology Audience:* Readers of the Young Writers Contest Anthology are in grades 6-12 and include parents/guardians and educators. The judges are members of the Young Writers Contest Review Board of OKCTE.

Categories and Length:

- *Short Story, 2000 words*
- *Essay (Expository), 1000 words*
- *Personal Narrative, 1000 words*
- *Descriptive Paragraph, 500 words*
- *Poetry, 25lines*
- *Comic, 1 page*

*Submission Deadline:* January 15, 2021

*Decision:* March 2021

*Publication Expected and Awards:* April 2021

*Format of Entry:*

- Word document , Google doc link, or high-resolution PNG/JPG for the Comic
- On the document, include the title, name of student, grade, teacher, and school.
- The entire entry should be single spaced.
- For poetry, the poem should appear as you'd like it published -- spacing, line breaks, punctuation, etc.
- Garamond 11 font is preferred.

All poem submissions and questions should be submitted to the editor at [sarah.j.donovan@okstate.edu](mailto:sarah.j.donovan@okstate.edu). Do not submit entries via email. Only form submissions will be considered.

# 2021 OKCTE Young Writers Contest

## Writing Resources (click the circles)

### Categories (Resource Slides)

#### **Short Story (2000 words max)**

A short story (subject matter aimed at readers 6 - 12) is a brief piece of fiction. It often revolves around a single theme or one climactic event, developing a single character in depth. All short stories should present the major character with an important problem that the character must struggle to solve and engage the reader in caring about whether the character achieves that goal by the story's end.

#### **Essay (1000 words max)**

This category is made up of different text structures- problem-solution, compare and contrast, cause and effect, how-to/sequence, and more. The aim is to educate readers in different ways to offer a deeper understanding of the topic. You may even weave in some story.

#### **Personal Narrative (1000 words max)**

Memoir is first-person, narrative nonfiction that focuses on one specific aspect of the writer's life or experience. Nostalgia focuses on down-home occurrences reflecting the past; these pieces evoke a fond remembrance of a time gone by, or memories of childhood; it includes many of the features of a short story-- sensory language, dialogue, character description/interaction, plot, conflict, resolution, and some aha reflecting on the memory.

#### **Descriptive Paragraph (500 words max)**

A descriptive paragraph is a focused and detail-rich account of a specific topic. Paragraphs in this style often have a concrete focus--the sound of a waterfall, the stench of a skunk's spray--but can also convey something abstract, such as an emotion or a memory. Some descriptive paragraphs do both. To write a descriptive paragraph, you must study your topic closely, make a list of the details you observe, and organize those details into a logical structure.

#### **Poetry (up to 32 lines)**

Any theme, any form. A poem is characterized by intense, compressed language. Every word is carefully chosen. A poem can tell a story, create an image, or evoke an emotion. In all cases, it is an artform and should go beyond plain prose to evoke something deeper. Any rhyming form may be used for this category, too.

#### **Comic (one page)**

Any theme, in color or B&W art; on paper (take a high resolution PNG) or **original** computer-generated illustration. Judged by the plot, dialogue, and originality. One page with all panels fitting on an 8.5x11 page, one side.

short  
story

essay

personal  
narrative

descriptive  
paragraph

poetry

video  
resources

comic

