

answer blank, if a unit is required, and with the correct sign. All test questions up through the last one attempted, including an erased attempt, will be scored.

• **SCORING.** Grade only through the last problem attempted by the contestant. A contestant attempts a problem when any mark (erased or not) is present in the answer space. Do not grade past the last attempted problem. Add 5 points for each correct answer. Subtract 2 points for each wrong answer, every skipped test question, and for each answer that was marked through or erased, without resulting in a correct answer. Mark-outs are acceptable, as long as a correct answer is written beside the mark-out. If an answer is marked out and no correct answer is written in the answer space beside the mark-out, 2 points are deducted. Erasures are permitted. Any erased correct answer that can still be seen is counted correct. An erased answer that is not correct and does not have a correct answer written over or beside it constitutes an incorrect answer, whereby 2 points are deducted.

ALTERNATE SCORING METHOD: Multiply the problem number of the last attempted problem by 5. Multiply the number of incorrect or skipped problems by 7. Subtract the first number by the second. This scoring method is equivalent.

• **VERIFICATION PERIOD.** (See page 14.)

• **MATERIALS.** Last year's PSIA Calculator Applications tests and answer keys, plus tests from previous PSIA contests, are available on Study Materials Order Form and Tests Order Form found on the PSIA website.

A Commonly Asked Question

Q. If the answer to a question is 3.68×10^1 , would the answer be correct if it were given as 3.68×10 with the exponent 1 omitted?

A. Yes. 3.68×10^1 , 3.68×10 and 36.8 are correct answers. $3.68E1$, $3.68 \cdot 10^1$ and 36.8×10^0 are incorrect.

See "Grading the Calculator Applications Test" on the previous pages.

2022

CREATIVE WRITING

2023

INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE CONTESTANT

• **ENTRIES.** As many as THREE students from EACH GRADE LEVEL (grades 1 and 2) OR ages 6 and 7 by Sept. 1 of the current school year, if in an ungraded school, may be entered in the Creative Writing District Contest from each school. Each grade level is judged separately in contest, but **only one student from each grade level advances to State.**

• **ADVANCING TO STATE.** 4 students from each grade level must compete for the top winner from each grade level to advance to State. (See page 8 for complete rules, and see page 106 for an abbreviated chart for contest administration.)

• **NATURE OF THE CONTEST.** Contestants are given a writing prompt page with five captioned pictures. The students select from the captioned images and create an original story based on their selections. The stories must talk about at least one of the pictured items, but it is not required that all items on the prompt page be included. **Contestants should make up titles for their stories, but not writing a title is not a cause for disqualification.** A sample prompt is provided on the page that follows these instructions in the *PSIA*

Academic Handbook.

• **WHAT HAPPENS IN THE CONTEST.** The Contest Director will announce the time and place that contestants and one adult should report for viewing of the stories and evaluations before awards are presented. Contestants are then given five or six sheets of lined contest writing paper. Two Assistant Directors assist with paper distribution and contest organization where needed. (The paper master sheet is included in the District Director materials, to be reproduced as needed.) **Contestants MUST provide their own pencils.** The contest director will distribute prompt pages on which Contestant ID Labels have been placed. Contestants will write their ID numbers in the space provided on each page and number each page of their writing in the upper right hand corner. The director will read aloud the titles of each of the prompts and the instructions on the prompt page to contestants. No other discussion about the prompts will be permitted. Contestants have 30 minutes to write their stories. The director **may** give a 10-minute warning and a 5-minute warning before time is expired and all papers are collected.

2022

CREATIVE WRITING

2023

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FOR COACHES / CONTEST DIRECTORS

• **PREPARATION FOR CONTEST.** Read and follow all instructions provided in the "Information Pertaining to All Contests" section of the *PSIA Academic Handbook*. Observe and practice with students all rules and procedures delineated in the "Instructions to the Contestant" and in the "Checklist for Contest Directors" and the "Checklist for Graders." Preparation for the

Creative Writing Contest may include review of the material in the current edition of the *Ready Writing and Creative Writing Handbook*, in which sample prompts and state winning stories are published. In addition, this resource provides information about appropriate, constructive comments to write to students on their evaluation forms.

Some of these include:

Very creative. Excellent use of dialogue.
Makes me smile. You might make your
story longer by adding more detail about...

Any writing program that is used in the classroom will help prepare students for Creative Writing. Training students to effectively use the writing time will be helpful. For example, they may want to plan a beginning, middle, and end for their stories before they begin to write. The contest has no minimum word length, and the emphasis in evaluation will be on creativity and interest. A sample of the creative writing individual evaluation sheet is included in this handbook.

• **RATING THE COMPOSITIONS.** Judges will receive unlabeled prompt pages and judge each

story on the basis of Interest and Creativity (60%); Organization (30%); and Correctness of Style (10%).

Without marking on the papers, a panel of **three (3) judges** should attach the evaluation sheet to the front of the contestant's story and each make comments while taking turns reading it. It is recommended that a skimming and elimination process be used first if more than 16 stories are to be evaluated. ALL stories must receive an evaluation. The top 10 stories should be ranked and rankings indicated on the Contest Roster. Judges are to reach a consensus on the papers ranked first through tenth. **There can be NO ties in this contest.** Additionally, this is a subjective contest, not an objective contest.

Please do not assign a "score" to the works and then rank them based on the score.



Private Schools Interscholastic Association CREATIVE WRITING CONTEST

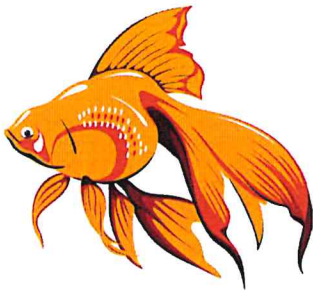
SAMPLE 2022-2023

[ID Label will be here at District]

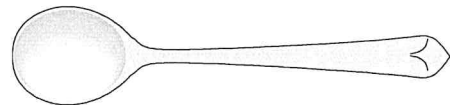
Contestant ID#: _____ Student Name: _____ City / School Name: _____

INSTRUCTIONS: Write a story on your own paper, or paper that has been given to you by your contest director. You must write about at least one of the things shown on this page. Your story may include as many of the things shown as you wish.

Remember NOT to use your name or the name of your school in your story.



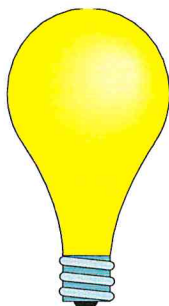
goldfish



spoon



woman



light bulb



flower pot