

## Subjective Test Judging

**Creative Writing** – This test is for 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> grade students. The contestants are given a writing prompt page with five captioned pictures. Using the pictures, they must create a story about at least *one* of the pictures. It is not required that they use any more than one picture, but they may choose to do so. They should make up a title for their story. The students have 30 minutes to plan and write their story.

*Judging the Test: (remember that these are 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> graders, they are emergent writers)*

- 60% Interest and Creativity
- 30% Organization
- 10% Correctness of Style
- Write constructive comments for each paper
- List areas that could be improved
- As a panel of judges, come to a consensus
- *Only 1<sup>st</sup> place in each grade level for Creative Writing advances to the State Contest*

**Ready Writing** - This test is for students in Grades 3 through 8. The contestants are given a prompt page with two different prompts on it (grade level appropriate). They must choose one of the prompts to write a composition.

Grades 3 and 4      45 minutes

Grades 5 and 6      60 minutes

Grades 7 and 8      90 minutes

This does not mean they need to use all of the time, but that is the time allotted for the contest.

*Judging the Contest:* First and foremost, read the prompt that the writer chose, and be sure that the writer wrote **to that prompt**, include addressing it to the proper audience. The compositions should be judged as to relative excellence in:

- **Interest 50%**

- Substance: something to say that is worth saying because of its acuteness of analysis and its originality of thought.
- Clarity: can the reader understand the writer's ideas and points, does it hold your interest?
- Inclusion of specific details: does the writer give examples which individualize the composition as an outgrowth of their character and experience?
- **Organization 35%**
  - Is their evidence of planning (a list, an outline, phrases, a web, etc.)?
  - Does the composition contain a central idea, a logical order, a smooth transition, supporting evidence, attention to the audience?
  - Paper should be organized in paragraph form.
  - Each paragraph should contribute to the overall theme or idea that is suggested by the prompt.
  - Each paragraph should be about the logical development of one idea.
- **Correctness of Style 15%**
  - Avoiding errors in sentence structure, punctuation, grammar, spelling and use that interfere with communication, or anything that hinders what writers are trying to say.
  - Does the paper flow?
- Write constructive comments for each paper.
- List areas that could be improved.
- As a panel of judges, come to a consensus of ranking the papers.
- Only 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> place in each grade level advance to the State Contest.

The following contests require subjective judges to evaluate and rank contestants. Preprinted forms and rubric will be used by each individual judge to record comments and thoughts prior to final ranking. Copies of the actual judges form that you will use will be provided to you by

your Campus Coordinator along with the Contest Instructions for the contest which you are judging. Please read through these and become very familiar with them prior to the day of the contest.

**Storytelling** – This contest is for 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> grade students. The contestants are divided into groups of 6-8 (by grade level). They will hear a short story of about 2-4 pages in length, and will then re-tell the story in front of an audience and judges in approximately 6 minutes or less. The students are called one-by-one in random order, and have to sit quietly reflecting on the story until they are called to retell.

*Judging the Contest:* As a judge, you will not hear the story. Therefore, you are not looking/listening for minute details, but for *expression, intonation, characterization, and enthusiasm in the student's voice.*

- Students should demonstrate the ability to speak before an audience, organize details, and creatively re-tell a story they have just heard.
- Look for eye contact with the judges and audience, posture, articulation, and effective but not overuse of gestures are important.
- Students should not wear anything that identifies their school (ranking should be lower if they do).
- Students are “coached” to dress up and girls are asked to keep their hair out of their eyes in order to better see their facial expressions.
- Rank the students in order of excellence after all speakers have finished.
- Give constructive criticism and applaud things that are done well.
- In the prelim round, 2-3 students from each room will advance to the final round.
- A total of 6 students compete in the final round.
- Only the 1<sup>st</sup> place student will advance to the State Contest

**Poetry/Prose Interpretation** (This is a Poetry year) –

- Students Grades 4<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup>
- Students compete against students in their own grade level, except 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade which is combined.
- Contestants select a published piece of poetry, prepare an introduction, and present both the intro and piece within a 6-minute time limit.
- No minimum time – better presentations are at least 3 minutes in length
- Documentation proving that their piece is a poetry piece is required – specific qualifier words must be present in the documentation in order to be accepted.

Please see the list provided with the Poetry Interpretation Contest Instructions that are included with your volunteer packet.

- Documentation should be verified before the contest date by the Digital Documentation Director appointed by the Contest Director.
- Responsive use of the body (changes in posture but limited to in place movement) and natural gestures are allowed and encouraged.
- Contestants are required to hold a transcript in a folder or binder.
- Voice inflection and interpretation of the different characters and the scene are the most important components of a great prose/poetry interpretation.
- The voice, and not the body should convey the meaning the feeling of the piece.
- Appearance can be a factor in the judges' overall impression of the presenter (contestants are not required to wear a suit and tie or dresses).
- No school names or logos are allowed on the clothing.
- Clothing that appears to be a costume of the character is not appropriate.

### **Impromptu Speaking –**

- Students Grades 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> combined
- Judges will not be aware of which student is in which grade.
- Contestants will select three random topics (not seen before from an envelope) and will have 60 seconds to decide which of the three topics they wish to address. The topics not chosen will be put back in the envelope.
- The contestant then has 3 minutes to plan their speech, with or without notes.
- At the end of the three minutes, contestants hand the topic slip back to the director who will then read the topic aloud to the audience, including judges.
- Contestant then must deliver their speech (**without notes**) within a 5-minute time period.
- Judges should look for an organized and effective presentation with smooth articulation.
- Judges should look for good eye contact, creativity, confidence and poise that includes a vocal variety, invokes interest and enthusiasm, and body gestures that are a natural outgrowth of their work.

In the Preliminary Rounds, two to three students from each section will advance to the final round. There will be a total of 6 students in the final round. The top 2 students ranked in the final round will advance to State.