



WWW HIGH SCHOOL WRITING CONTEST RUBRIC[©]

WWW WILLA YOUTH AWARD[©]

WWW LAURA YOUTH AWARD[©]

WWW DOWNING YOUTH AWARD[©]

* WWW defines “the West” as all of North America west of the Mississippi River, and includes Alaska and Hawaii.

** Depiction of a character’s biases or stereotypical views, presented in context, may be appropriate.

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WWW HIGH SCHOOL WRITING CONTEST RUBRIC

	Ineligible	4 -7 points	8 - 10 points
1 - Women of the West Theme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Male main character(s) • Story not set in the West* • Does not portray authentic western experience • Western landscape (natural or human-made) nonexistent or irrelevant* • Theme and content do not reflect WWW’s mission & goals (writing that does not acknowledge and document the recognition of women and girls and their contribution to the history, culture and growth of the American West) • No relevant theme in story, article, poems/haiku, lyrics 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Female main character(s) relevant to story, article, poems/haiku, lyrics • Story set in the West but could have happened anywhere; or partly set in the West* • Western landscape (natural or human-made) somewhat important* • Generally portrays authentic western experience • Theme & content of story, article, poem/haiku, lyrics generally reflect WWW’s mission & goals (writing that acknowledges and documents the recognition of women and girls and their contribution to the history, culture and growth of the American West) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Female main character(s) • Western setting primary & essential* • Consistently portrays authentic western experience • Theme & content excellent reflections of WWW’s mission & goals (writing that acknowledges and documents the recognition of women and girls and their contribution to the history, culture and growth of the American West) • Theme and content of story, article, poems/haiku, lyrics consistently portray authentic western experience

	0 - 3 points	4 - 7 points	8 - 10 points
2 - Characterization	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Character(s) not developed • Stereotypical character(s)** evident in works • Dialogue not convincing • Characters generic, not interesting • Reader does not sympathize with main character • Didactic, preachy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Main character somewhat developed • Generally no inappropriate gender, ethnic, racial or other stereotypes** • Dialogue at times sounds unnatural • Character(s) interesting • Reader sympathizes somewhat with main character • Character's "lesson" generally presented 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Main character well developed & believable • No inappropriate gender, ethnic, racial, or other stereotypes included** • Dialogue sounds natural • Character(s) original and unique • Reader sympathized with main character • Any "lesson" subtle and organic
	0 - 3 points	4 - 7 points	8 - 10 points
3 - Setting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Setting not important to the story, article, poem/haiku, lyrics • Setting not described 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Setting of moderate importance in story, article, poem/haiku, lyrics • Setting described in conventional terms 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A strong sense of place is inherent in story, article, poem/haiku, lyrics • Setting vividly described, using most of the senses

	0 - 3 points	4 - 7 points	8 - 10 points
4 - Plot, Content, Ideas, Organization	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Main character has no goal or problem to solve, or this is unclear • Story fails to hook reader; ending not satisfying • Implausible • Plot predictable • Story, article poem/haiku, lyrics inadequately depict an idea, experience, or emotion • Little evidence of logical or effective order or sequence 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Main character has goal or problem of marginal importance; emotionally engaging for readers • Slow beginning leads to more action; or conclusion leaves some questions unanswered; or conclusion not satisfying • Adequate focus on overall theme or topic • Story, article, poem/haiku, lyrics depict an idea, experience, or emotion; some poems stronger than others • Logical or effective order or sequence recognizable 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Main character has difficulty achieving important goal or solving important problem; emotionally engaging for readers • Excellent, cohesive focus on overall theme or topic • Opening draws reader in; conclusion satisfying • Suspension of disbelief consistent • Plot or article original, fresh • Poem/haiku, lyrics depicts an idea, experience, emotion • Use of logical or effective order or sequence satisfying to reader
	0 - 3 points	4 - 7 points	8 - 10 points
5 - Voice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Narrative voice lacking, confusing, distances reader from the story • Point of view confusing • Little or no sense of storyteller's, poet's, songwriter's individual style • Word choice rarely reflects or evokes storyteller's, poems/haiku or lyrical themes, sounds, or emotions; difficult to read aloud 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Narrative voice dependable • Point of view wavers or occasionally jumps • Storyteller's, songwriter's, poet's individual style sometimes apparent • Word choice sometimes reflects or evokes poems'/haikus' or lyrical themes, sounds or emotions • Rhythm of storytelling, poem/haiku, lyrics creates adequate "read-aloud" quality; some lapses 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Narrative voice engaging, fresh, distinct • Point of view clear, consistent; or POV shifts clear and intentional • Storyteller's, songwriter's, poet's individual style clearly apparent • Word choice often reflects or evokes storyteller, poem/haiku, lyrical themes, sounds, or emotions • Inherent rhythm creates excellent "read-aloud" quality

	0 - 3 points	4 - 7 points	8 - 10 points
6 - Literary Qualities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Poor or inappropriate command of language (contains inappropriate slang, foul language, violence, hate speech, erotic content, inappropriate word choice, figurative language) • Imagery confusing or nonexistent, abstract, clichéd • Premise conventional, simplistic, expected • Not enjoyable or thought-provoking • Title ordinary, uninspired • Rhyme (if used) forced or incomplete • Little or no demonstrated grasp of poetic, lyrical conventions and devices 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Moderate command of language (contains no inappropriate slang, no foul language, violence, hate speech, no erotic content, inappropriate word choice, figurative language) • Imagery clear • Premise not new, but well explored • A pleasant read • Title fitting, appropriate • Rhyme in poem/haiku, if used, generally good • Adequate grasp of poetic, lyrical conventions & devices 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consistently strong command of language (no use of inappropriate slang, no foul language, violence, hate speech, no erotic content, word choice, figurative language) • Imagery vivid, fresh • Premise breaks new ground • Thought-provoking • Title intriguing or resonates with meaning • Rhyme, if used, consistently excellent • Clear grasp of poetic, lyrical conventions & devices
	0 - 3 points	4 - 7 points	8 - 10 points
7 - Technical Conventions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Frequent problems with grammar, punctuation, spelling • Sloppy, wordy, repetitious writing • Poor balance between dialogue and narrative • Ineligible: Story does not have a beginning, middle and end • Line breaks in lyrics, poems'/haikus' shapes confusing • Journalistic article, lyrics ineligible if already "published" online, in newsletters and/or blogs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Occasional lapses of grammar, punctuation, spelling • Clear writing • Adequate balance between dialogue and narrative • Line breaks in lyrics, poems'/haikus' shapes adequate • Journalistic article, lyrics are fresh 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clear grasp of grammar, punctuation, spelling; or reader trusts that conventions purposefully set aside • Tight writing • Good balance between dialogue and narrative • Lyrics, poem/haiku unique constructions clearly intentional & effective • Line breaks in lyrics, poems'/haikus' shapes carefully considered • Journalistic article, lyrics fresh and ready to be published

	0 - 3 points	4 - 7 points	8 - 10 points
8 - Presentation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Font and typesetting difficult to read• Non-use of general manuscript submission requirements (Times Roman, 12 pt font, 1" margins all around)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Font and typesetting used adequately• Partial use of general manuscript submission requirements (Times Roman, 12 pt font, 1" margins all around)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Font and typesetting used effectively• Manuscript submission requirements followed (Times Roman, 12pt font, 1" margins all around)