

NJLA CELEBRATION OF STUDENT WRITERS (K-8): 2020 WRITING CONTEST

PARTICIPATION GUIDELINES

You inspire and teach your students to become young authors every day. NJLA would like to support your efforts by providing selected students an opportunity to publish their work in a collection of student writing to appear on the New Jersey Literacy Association (NJLA) website in May 2020.

See below to learn how to participate:

- 1. Writing Genre:** Personal Narrative/Memoir
- 2. Grade levels for entrants:** K to 8
- 3. Word count:**
 - **Kindergarten – up to 100 words (with illustrations encouraged)**
 - **1st and 2nd grades – up to 250 words (with illustrations encouraged)**
 - **3rd and 4th grades – up to 400 words**
 - **5th and 6th grades – up to 500 words**
 - **7th and 8th grades – up to 600 words**
- 4. Format:**
 - For grades K-2 entries may be handwritten or typed and may include illustrations. Be sure handwriting is legible to be considered. Jpeg, pdf, doc, or docx files will be accepted.
 - For Grades 3-8, entries must be typed (doc or .docx - no pdfs)
 - Teachers must complete and return the application form along with student narratives. (Click on the link to access the application form).
 - Each personal narrative must include the name and grade level of the student author along with the school name and city/town. (If selected for publication, only the student's first name and last initial as well as the grade, school and town/city/state will appear (i.e. David M., Grade 4, Lincoln School, Clifton, NJ).
- 5. Eligibility Guidelines** To be eligible for consideration the following procedures must be followed:
 - Entrants must be a public school student in grades K through 8.
 - Each teacher can submit the work of **up to 5 students (one piece of writing per student)**.
 - Only single author pieces will be considered (no co-authors).
 - **Word count and format requirements** must be followed
- 6. Submission Due Date:** All entries must be submitted by **March 27, 2020**.
- 7. Selection Criteria**
 - Selection will be done by a panel comprised of NJLA Board members and undergraduate education major student volunteers.
 - Each piece will be judged holistically according to the following criteria: **compelling content, rich language and use of appropriate conventions**.
 - The work of five students will be selected as finalists at each grade level.
 - Finalists will receive a certificate from NJLA. (Teachers will be provided with a participation certificate to print and distribute to all students' whose work was submitted.)
 - **The finalists' pieces will be compiled into an electronic document and posted on the NJLA homepage for download.**
 - **Only selected students and teachers will be notified by email by the end of April and asked to provide parent permission to publish their child's name and work.**
 - Materials submitted will become the property of NJLA and will not be returned. Ensure you maintain a copy before submitting.
 - All decisions by NJLA are final.