

Creative Writing Competition/ Pitt-Greensburg Humanities Day

1. In the interest of fairness, we ask for strict adherence to competition rules. Deviation from the guidelines is grounds for disqualification.
2. Students will have the chance to compete in **three genres** – Creative Nonfiction/Journalism, Fiction and Poetry.
3. Each school is limited to **four entries** – one per grade level (freshman, sophomore, junior, senior) – in **each** genre. Each school may therefore submit a **maximum of 12** individual pieces (four poems, four nonfiction prose pieces, four works of fiction).
4. **Four winners, divided by grade level, will be chosen in each genre. Honorable mentions may be awarded as well**, depending on the quality of the submissions. The panel of judges will be made up of published authors, poets and faculty members at Pitt-Greensburg.
5. Submissions are due by **5 p.m. on Friday, March 24**.
6. All submissions from each school should be hard copies (typed, double-spaced, standard margins) and mailed in one packet to **Professor Lori Jakiela, The University of Pittsburgh at Greensburg, 208 Faculty Office Building, Finoli Drive, Greensburg, PA 15601**.
7. Questions? Contact Professor Jakiela at loj@pitt.edu.

CREATIVE NONFICTION/JOURNALISM

1. Each school is limited to **four entries** – one from each grade level – in this genre.
2. Submissions must be **1,000 words** or less.
3. Entries must be the original work of the students. Although topics may not ordinarily require research, any sources used must be cited.
4. Entries must be typed, double-spaced, on 8.5 x 11 paper and submitted with a cover page indicating a) the student's name and year; b) the name of the student's school; c) the title of the entry; and d) the genre
5. Entries will be judged according to the following criteria: Excellence in craft; originality; precision; voice; grammar and sentence structure; artistic and journalistic merit

FICTION

1. Each school is limited to **four entries** – one from each grade level – in this genre.
2. Submissions must be **2,000 words** or less.
3. Entries must be the original work of the students. Although topics may not ordinarily require research, any sources used must be cited.
4. Entries must be typed, double-spaced, on 8.5 x 11 paper and submitted with a cover page indicating a) the student's name and year; b) the name of the student's school; c) the title of the entry; and d) the genre
5. Entries will be judged according to the following criteria: originality (story line, characters, situations, etc.); coherence (organization and craft); perspective (author's narrative presentation); sentence and grammar skills

POETRY

1. Each school is limited to **four entries**/four individual poems – one from each grade level – in this genre.
2. There is no length requirement for individual poems.
3. Entries must be the original work of the students.
4. Entries must be typed, **single-spaced**, on 8.5 x 11 paper and submitted with a cover page indicating a) the student's name and year; b) the name of the student's school; c) the title of the entry; and d) the genre
5. Entries will be judged according to the following criteria: originality (style, language, image, sound, form); coherence (how all elements contribute to the poem); perspective (clarity and uniqueness of voice); correctness of language and sentence skills