

# OTERO ARTS FESTIVAL 2024

## CREATIVE WRITING CONTEST - GRADES 7-12

### *Please Distribute to your Students*

- 1) Competition is in four categories: **Essay, Short Story, Poetry (7-12 grades) and Creative Book (9-12 Grades only)**. A student may enter more than one category, but only one entry per student per category. **Class assignments on the same topic handicap the student** and are not encouraged for the festival. While skill in writing itself is to be prized, subject selection and limitation are a vital, creative part of the writing process.
- 2) Each teacher should select the four best examples in any or all of the categories (for a maximum of twelve entries per teacher per class). We rely on teachers to assure the originality of each writing.
- 3) **TWO COPIES** of each entry must be submitted.  
**Copy One** – judges' copy must have only the writing category and grade typed in the upper right-hand corner  
**Copy Two – Display Copy** should include: **a)** student's name, **b)** grade, and **c)** school/teacher's name and **d)** writing category in the upper right-hand corner.

**ENTRIES SUBMITTED WILL NOT BE RETURNED; THEREFORE, TEACHERS SHOULD PLAN TO MAKE COPIES FOR THEMSELVES OR THE STUDENT.**

- 4) An **ESSAY** may be on any topic. Please limit the essay to no more than 500 words. **YOU MUST INCLUDE A TITLE.**
- 5) A **SHORT STORY** may be on any topic and should demonstrate a strong sense of narration, description, and character development. These are **NOT** to be autobiographical in nature. Please limit short stories to 1,000 words. **YOU MUST INCLUDE A TITLE.**
- 6) **POETRY** may be of any style, may be submitted in an artistic visual format, and must be titled. Please limit poems to no more than 30 lines. Patterning a poem directly on another poet's style or format may be good practice, but an individual approach is always prized.  
**YOU MUST INCLUDE A TITLE**
- 7) All entries are due by **5:00 p.m. FRIDAY, MARCH 1, 2024**. Judges will determine overall winners. Winners will be recognized on **THURSDAY, April 4 at 7:00 p.m.** during the awards ceremony. Teachers or students may pick writing up immediately following the awards.
- 8) In the **Senior Portfolio** competition, the senior student must exhibit talent in the Essay, Short Story, and Poetry categories. Only one entry per category is allowed; **but, seniors can now include writing completed during any of their high school years. For example, a senior has the choice to enter a poem and essay completed during the sophomore year, and a short story completed during the senior year. They can choose any combination of the three.** Senior Portfolio entries are limited to this group and do not compete at large.
- 9) Please deliver entries to:  
**Otero Arts Festival Creative Writing Contest, 1802 Colorado Ave, La Junta, CO 81050 Macdonald Hall Room 110.** "Senior Portfolios" must be clearly labeled and senior portfolio entries stapled together separate from general category entries.

Examples -  
Please feel free to  
COPY & DISTRIBUTE  
to your students

## Arts Festival Display Copy of Essay Format

ESSAY  
Student's Name  
Grade ??  
School Name  
Teacher's Name

Title

Body of essay: written in a minimum of 12 font size and double spaced. May be done on colored or decorative paper 8½"x11". DO NOT USE A SEPARATE COVER SHEET.

Label pages numerically if essay consists of 2 or more pages.

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## Judge's Copy of Essay Format

ESSAY  
Grade ??

Title

Body of essay: written in minimum of 12 font size and double spaced on **plain white paper 8½"x11"**. DO NOT USE A SEPARATE COVER SHEET.

Label pages numerically if essay consists of 2 or more pages.

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## Arts Festival Display Copy of Poetry Format

POETRY  
Student's Name  
Grade ??  
School Name  
Teacher's Name

Title

Body of Poem written in minimum 12 font size. May be done on colored or decorative paper 8½"x11". May be done on colored or decorative paper 8½"x11"

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## Judge's Copy of Poetry Format

POETRY  
Grade ??

Title

Body of Poem written in minimum 12 font size  
Must be on **plain white paper 8½"x11"**

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## Arts Festival Display Copy of Short Story

SHORT STORY  
Student's Name  
Grade ??  
School Name  
Teacher's Name

Title

Body of short story written in minimum 12 font size and double spaced.  
May be done on colored or decorative paper 8½"x11". DO NOT USE A SEPARATE COVER SHEET.

Label pages numerically if short story consists of 2 or more pages.

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## Judge's Copy of Short Story

SHORT STORY  
Grade ??

Title

Body of short story written in minimum 12 font size and double spaced on **plain white paper 8½"x11"**. DO NOT USE A SEPARATE COVER SHEET.

Label pages numerically if short story consists of 2 or more pages.

***Drop Off Location: Macdonald Hall Room 110, 1802 Colorado Avenue, La Junta, CO 81050***  
***Mail to: Otero Arts Festival, 1802 Colo. Ave, La Junta, CO 81050 \*\*MUST be received by 3/1/24\*\****