
Creative Writing Division Rules

It is **no longer necessary to submit a video** along with the necessary paperwork for submission of creative writing entries. First place winners in the creative writing division **will not participate in the stage show performance at the 2018 National Veterans Creative Arts Festival**. All gold medal winners from the national competition in the creative writing division will be invited to attend writer interaction sessions and a writing seminar. The seminar will be led by a professional writing instructor.


Entries submitted into the Creative Writing Division will be judged based upon the merit of the original work, creative content, message clarity, use of language, originality of topic or idea, and overall strength. The top three creative writing winning entries will be included in a booklet that will be distributed by November, 2018.

The Creative Writing Division differs from categories in the Drama Division which are judged on **performance** qualities (such as stage presence, expressiveness, and interpretation) of an entry.

1. **First place ties in a category at the local competition MUST be re-judged at the local level as only one entry for each category will be accepted from each VA facility.** A formal competition is not required at the local level but is strongly encouraged. All eligible Veterans should be given the opportunity to participate regardless of degree of talent.
2. All entries submitted into the Creative Writing Division must be original compositions written solely by the eligible Veteran who is submitting the entry.
3. **All creative writing entries MUST be e-mailed to Liz Nealy (ngraphics04@att.net) or uploaded to the National Veterans Creative Arts Competition SharePoint site (<https://vaww.visn23.portal.va.gov/stc/NVCACompetition>)** in order for the entry to be accepted and judged at the national level. This applies to each entry in all creative writing categories.
 - Each entry must be submitted as a Word document. **Do not** send PDF attachments.
 - Each entry must be double-spaced text typed in upper and lower case letters.
 - In the subject line of the email indicate the VA facility submitting the entry, category number AND the title of the piece.
4. If an entry has won a gold medal in the creative writing division at the national level in any category it **MAY NOT BE** re-submitted into the Creative Writing division in a subsequent year.
5. Judges reserve the right to move an entry to the appropriate category or disqualify the entry if rules are not followed.
6. Collections of poems, essays, stories, etc. submitted as one entry will not be allowed.

Note: VA staff contact persons will be notified via E-mail with the 2018 competition results.

Creative Writing Division Categories

1. **Poetry – Humorous** - A verse composition of humorous nature, **no longer than 48 lines** in length, written by one eligible Veteran.
2. **Poetry – Inspirational** - Same as #1, but of an inspirational nature.
3. **Poetry – Patriotic** - Same as #1, but relating to American patriotism.
4. **Poetry – Other** - Same as #1, but does not more appropriately meet the definitions of poetry-humorous, inspirational or patriotic categories.
5. **Essay – Humorous** - An essay, **no longer than 3 double-spaced pages in length**, written in ordinary speech or writing (not poetry) by one eligible Veteran that is **a discussion of a topic from the author’s personal point of view** as influenced by subjective experience and personal reflection, is a non-fiction work, often expository, and humorous in nature. Entries submitted into this category must have an introduction, a statement of viewpoint, supportive points, and a conclusion summary.
6. **Essay – Inspirational** - Same as #5, but of an inspirational nature.
7. **Essay – Patriotic** - Same as #5, but reflective of American patriotism.
8. **Essay – Other** - Same as #5, but does not more appropriately meet the definitions of essay-humorous, inspirational or patriotic categories.
9. **Personal Experience – Humorous** - A story or situation of humorous content, **no longer than 3 double-spaced pages in length**, that is **written by one eligible Veteran in the first person** and conveyed about one’s self.
10. **Personal Experience – Inspirational** - Same as #9, but with inspirational content.
11. **Personal Experience – Patriotic** - Same as #9, but with content that relates to American patriotism.
12. **Personal Experience – Other** - Same as #9, but does not more appropriately meet the definitions of personal experience-humorous, inspirational or patriotic categories. Could include wartime-related experiences, though stories/situations with wartime-related content may also be suitable for personal experience-humorous, inspirational or patriotic categories.
13.  **Short, Short Story** - A short story, **no longer than 1,000 words in length** that is written by one eligible Veteran. The story must have a beginning, middle, and an end. Entries received that contain more than 1,000 words will be disqualified.
New!
14. **Monologue/Duologue** - Monologue is a part of a script written by an eligible Veteran for one actor. Duologue is a part of a script written by an eligible Veteran for two actors. **Entries in this category must be no longer than 3 double-spaced pages in length.**

Creative Writing Special Recognition

15. **Special Recognition** - Individual or group. **All specific category rules still apply when entering the special recognition category.** Original entries that recognize individuals who exhibit creative expression through the use of creative writing while possessing significant physical or psychological limitations. The intent of this category is to reinforce the concept of the arts as therapy, where an individual uses artistic expression to facilitate successful treatment outcomes. Entries and their accompanying written statements from the Veteran's VA staff contact person should focus on how the arts are used by the individual(s) to rise above severe limitations.

Entries in this category **MUST** also include:

- **A written statement/narrative** (25 to 225 words) by a VA staff person or the Veteran of why the Veteran is deserving of special recognition
- Consent form 10-3203 (on pages 53-54) and 10-5345 (page 22) must be signed and dated by the Veteran. The staff contact person submitting the entry for the Veteran should safeguard the signed consent forms at their VA facility.

Creative Writing Judges' Score Sheet

Judges at the 2018 National level of competition will be ranking each creative writing entry based on the following criteria. Please consider using this score sheet for your local competitions.

Creative Writing Judging Score Sheet

Category Number:	Category Name:
Title of Entry:	

CRITERIA	POINTS									
Creative Content	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Message Clarity	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Use of Language	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Originality of Topic or Idea	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Overall Strength of Composition	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

TOTAL SCORE _____

2018 Creative Writing Division

Entry Submission Process



For the 2018 competition, **entry form information** may be submitted through the NVCA Competition SharePoint site.

National Veterans Creative Arts Competition SharePoint Site Link

<https://vaww.visn23.portal.va.gov/stc/NVCACompetition>

The National Veterans Creative Arts Competition SharePoint site can only be accessed by VA employees using a networked VA computer. Non-VA employees cannot access the SharePoint site.

If entries are submitted via the link above it is not necessary to submit hard copies of the entry forms. All information on the following pages must still be collected for VA staff input into the electronic database on the SharePoint site. The electronic database will not allow you to successfully submit an entry into the competition unless each field is complete. Please be sure to provide as detailed a description of the mediums and techniques used as possible.

VA staff contact person: Be sure to obtain additional Veteran contact information for your reference use only, to notify the Veteran of the competition results.

- All entries submitted to the national level of competition **must be uploaded or postmarked on or before Friday, March 23, 2018.**
- The National Veterans Creative Arts Chairpersons prefer entries be sent via the NVCA Competition SharePoint site however emailing the entries as separate Word documents to ngraphics04@att.net will also be accepted.
- It is recommended to send your mailed items with the option to track the packages to ensure delivery.
- It is recommended to send a cover page with any paperwork that is faxed.

Creative Writing Division Checklist

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Checklist of Items Necessary for National Judging:	
✓	Entry Form
✓	List of Entries form
✓	Local Level Participation Form
✓	Electronically submit a separate Word document for each entry containing the double-spaced text in lower and uppercase letters. The entry will only be accepted via E-mail to Liz Nealy at ngraphics04@att.net or via upload to the NVCA Competition SharePoint site https://vaww.visn23.portal.va.gov/stc/NVCACompetition
✓	Therapeutic Arts Scholarship (TAS) Submission Forms – Only if nominating a Veteran for consideration to attend the Festival based on a therapeutic objective. <i>Each VA medical facility may only send one TAS Submission to the national level of competition.</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nomination Form (page 19)



New Consent Form Information

Consent Form 10-3203 <i>(page 53-54)</i> Consent for Production and Use of Verbal or Written Statements, Photographs, Digital Images, and/or Video or Audio Recordings by VA	This form must be signed and dated by every Veteran entering the competition.	The staff contact person submitting the entry(ies) for the Veterans should safeguard the signed consent forms at their VA facility.	It is no longer necessary to send this consent form to the national chairpersons.
Consent Form 10-5345 <i>(page 22)</i> Request for and Authorization to Release Medical Records or Health Information	This form must be signed and dated by every Veteran entering a category that requires a write-up including the Therapeutic Arts Scholarship (TAS) nominations.	The staff contact person submitting the entry(ies) and TAS nominations for the Veterans should safeguard the signed consent forms at their VA facility.	It is no longer necessary to send this consent form to the national chairpersons.