

**YOUNG GEORGIA AUTHORS
WRITING COMPETITION**

**2009-2010
OFFICIAL RULES
BOOKLET**

**Georgia Department of Education
Contact Person: Mary Stout
Phone: (404) 463-1933**

YOUNG GEORGIA AUTHORS WRITING COMPETITION

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PURPOSES

The purposes of the Young Georgia Authors Writing Competition are to

- encourage students to develop writing that represents their best efforts.
- provide a context for schools to support and celebrate the writing successes of all students.
- encourage and recognize student achievement in writing throughout Georgia.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

All students currently enrolled in Georgia public schools, kindergarten through twelfth grade, may submit writing entries for the system level competition; however, the maximum number of writing entries any local system may submit to the state competition is **one per grade level**.

CATEGORIES

Any type of student writing is permissible. Entries may be short stories, poetry, essays, journals, personal narratives, reports, or any other original student writing.

RETURN POLICY

All writing entries become the property of the Georgia Department of Education. Please keep a copy for your records. No booklets or bound copies will be accepted.

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SELECTION PROCEDURES

There must be evidence of a school system contest. Entries sent by individual teachers or by individual schools that have not been a part of a school system contest will **NOT** be judged.

Each school system is allowed only one winner for each grade level. **Dual system entries at any grade level will be disqualified.**

The winning entries from each school system must be received by the Georgia Department of Education **no later than Wednesday, March 10, 2010.** Writing entries will be grouped and judged according to the school system's Regional Educational Service Agencies (RESA).

Judges will be selected by the staff of the Academic Standards Division of the Georgia Department of Education and/or the English/Language Arts consultant at each RESA. All judges will be chosen from members of the education profession and/or the community at large. Judges will not have access to other judges' scores or have knowledge of the authors of the entries being judged.

NOTIFICATION OF WINNERS

School System Winners: All winning writing entries for each grade level from the school system level of competition are due to Mary Stout, Georgia Department of Education, 1762 Twin Towers East, Atlanta, Georgia 30334. They should be **received by Wednesday, March 10, 2010.**

RESA District Winners: Notification of RESA district winners will be announced to each RESA. These winning entries will be submitted to the state level of competition.

State Winners: State winners will be recognized and presented during a State Board of Education meeting.

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GENERAL RULES

1. Students may submit one writing entry at their level of competition. Each writing entry must be submitted separately and accompanied by an Entry Form. The Official Entry Form is found on page 8 of this booklet and may be reproduced as needed.
2. All entries submitted must be the student's original work. The writing entry should be either typed or neatly handwritten on 8 1/2 X 11 inch paper. Exceptions to paper size are allowed for kindergarten and first grade entries. Students should write on one side of the paper only. Writing entries are limited to five pages. **If typed**, entries must be **double-spaced with a minimum of a 12 point font**. Dictated stories will not be accepted.
3. Each original student writing entry and a **copy** of the writing entry must be accompanied by an Official Entry Form signed by **the student, the teacher, the parent/guardian, and the person designated as the local school system's writing coordinator**. Incomplete entry forms will be eliminated from consideration.
4. **There should not be any information on the student's original writing entry or on the copy which could identify the student, the school, or the system.**
5. Writing entries submitted will not be returned. Please make copies prior to submitting student work. Bound books **must not** be submitted.
6. System winners are due to the Georgia Department of Education no later than 4 p.m. on **March 10, 2010**.
7. All entries must be the **original** work of the student. **All edits and revisions must be performed by the student. (No one should modify, alter, or influence the student's writing.)**
8. In order to recognize Young Georgia Authors Writing Competition winners on the web page and by other educational/professional organizations, it is **required** that parents/guardians sign their name on the Entry Form.
9. Please address questions to Mary Stout (404-463-1933 or mstout@doe.k12.ga.us) at the Georgia Department of Education.

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Sample Rubric

Directions: The categories are divided into four domains as reflected in the Georgia Performance Standards: Ideas, Style, Organization, and Conventions. The maximum score is 50 points. The maximum points in each sub-category in the domains are 5.

Judge's Name _____

Entry Number _____

DOMAIN	SUB-CATEGORY	MAXIMUM PTS.	TOTAL POINTS
IDEAS			
40%	Depth of Development	5	
	Sense of Completeness	5	
	Focus	5	
	Relevance of Detail	5	
STYLE			
20%	Voice	5	
	Diction	5	
ORGANIZATION			
20%	Sequence of Ideas	5	
	Appropriate Organizational Strategies	5	
CONVENTIONS			
20%	Clarity of Meaning	5	
	Overall Mechanics	5	
TOTAL POINTS			

COMMENTS:

Important Things to Remember

Please take a few minutes to read over the following points. This will help to ensure that the proper steps are taken when entering student writing in the Young Georgia Authors Writing Competition.

- **Each school system should designate a system level coordinator who will need to sign all K-12 entry forms.** This provides evidence that entries were a part of a school system competition. Contact your local county office to obtain the name of your system coordinator. Please make sure that the RESA district is also included on each entry form. (Refer to page 9 for a list of RESA districts in Georgia.)
- Send the original copy of the writing, **one additional copy**, and the entry form.
- Staple these pages together with the **entry form on top**.
- **MAKE SURE that the student's name does not appear on the copies of the writing entry. The easiest way to ensure this is to have the student's name on the entry form only.**
- Each school system should send in its grade level winners in the same packet.
- Make sure that there is a parent/guardian signature on **EACH** student entry.
- Please verify that **all** information on the entry form is **legible as well as correct**.
- Only one entry per grade level will be accepted from a school system regardless of genre. (For example: A school system may **not** submit a prose and a poetry entry for the same grade level.)
- Use the following sample and attach a cover sheet that lists your school system's winning entries. This sheet should accompany the students' writings that are submitted to GADOE.

Grade	Student	Title	School	System	RESA
K					
1st					
2nd					
3rd					
4th					
5th					
6th					
7th					
8th					
9th					
10th					
11th					
12th					

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2009 – 2010 ENTRY FORM

Due at the Georgia Department of Education by March 10, 2010.

Type or print all information. Copy this form as needed and attach to all original writing entries.

RESA District: _____

TITLE OF ENTRY (if applicable) _____

Student's Name _____ Age _____

Student's grade level _____ Student's phone number (____) _____

Student's Home Address _____
Street/P.O.Box _____ City _____ Zip Code _____

School _____

School's phone number (____) _____

School's Address _____
Street/P.O. Box _____ City _____ Zip Code _____

School System _____

Principal's Name _____ Teacher's Name _____

Superintendent's Name _____

Name of Parent/Guardian _____

***Signature of Parent/Guardian** _____

****Parental permission is required to allow winners to receive recognition and to have the winning entries published on the Georgia Department of Education's web page and by other educational or professional organizations.**

This writing entry is my own original, unassisted work and represents my best writing efforts.

Student's Signature

Teacher's Signature

Local System Writing Coordinator's Signature

- Unsigned and/or incomplete forms will disqualify the entry.
- **Attach this form to the top of each student's original writing entry along with one copy.** Photocopy extra entry forms as needed.
- **No writing entries will be returned.** Please make extra copies for students and parents before submission.
- Please mail this form with each original writing entry and one copy of the entry to

Mary Stout
Young Georgia Authors Writing Competition
Georgia Department of Education
1762 Twin Towers East
Atlanta, Georgia 30334-5040

RESA DISTRICTS

Central Savannah River Area RESA – Serves: Burke, Columbia, Emanuel, Glascock, Jefferson, Jenkins, Lincoln, McDuffie, Richmond, Taliaferro, Warren, and Wilkes Counties.

Chattahoochee Flint RESA – Serves: Chattahoochee, Clay, Crisp, Dooly, Macon, Marion, Muscogee, Quitman, Randolph, Schley, Stewart, Sumter, Talbot, Taylor, and Webster Counties.

Coastal Plains RESA – Serves: Ben Hill, Berrien, Brooks, Cook, Echols, Irwin, Lanier, Lowndes, Tift, and Turner Counties; Valdosta City.

First District RESA – Serves: Appling, Bryan, Bulloch, Camden, Candler, Chatham, Effingham, Evans, Glynn, Jeff Davis, Liberty, Long, McIntosh, Screven, Tattnall, Toombs, and Wayne Counties; Vidalia City.

Griffin RESA – Serves: Butts, Fayette, Henry, Lamar, Newton, Pike, Spalding, and Thomaston-Upson Counties.

Heart of Georgia RESA – Serves: Bleckley, Dodge, Laurens, Montgomery, Pulaski, Telfair, Treutlen, Wheeler, and Wilcox Counties; Dublin City.

Metro RESA – Serves: Clayton, Cobb, DeKalb, Douglas, Forsyth, Fulton, Gwinnett, and Rockdale Counties; Atlanta, Buford, Decatur, and Marietta Cities.

Middle Georgia RESA – Serves: Bibb, Crawford, Houston, Jones, Monroe, Peach, and Twiggs Counties.

North Georgia RESA – Serves: Cherokee, Fannin, Gilmer, Murray, Pickens, and Whitfield Counties; Dalton City.

Northeast Georgia RESA – Serves: Barrow, Clarke, Elbert, Greene, Jackson, Madison, Morgan, Oconee, Oglethorpe, and Walton Counties; Commerce, Jefferson, and Social Circle Cities.

Northwest Georgia RESA – Serves: Bartow, Catoosa, Chattooga, Dade, Floyd, Gordon, Haralson, Paulding, Polk and Walker Counties; Bremen, Calhoun, Cartersville, Chickamauga, Rome and Trion Cities.

Oconee RESA – Serves: Baldwin, Hancock, Jasper, Johnson, Putnam, Washington, and Wilkinson Counties.

Okefenokee RESA – Serves: Atkinson, Bacon, Brantley, Charlton, Clinch, Coffee, Pierce, and Ware Counties.

Pioneer RESA – Serves: Banks, Dawson, Franklin, Habersham, Hall, Hart, Lumpkin, Rabun, Stephens, Towns, Union, and White Counties; Gainesville City.

Southwest Georgia RESA – Serves: Baker, Calhoun, Colquitt, Decatur, Dougherty, Early, Grady, Lee, Miller, Mitchell, Seminole, Terrell, Thomas, and Worth Counties; Pelham and Thomasville Cities.

West Georgia RESA – Serves: Carroll, Coweta, Harris, Heard, Meriwether, and Troup Counties; Carrollton City.