

YOUNG GEORGIA AUTHORS – INFORMATION FOR POTENTIAL ENTRANTS

The Young Georgia Authors (YGA) writing competition, which started in 1991, is a prestigious writing opportunity sponsored by academic organizations in the state and supported by the Georgia Department of Education. The goal of YGA is to encourage students to develop enthusiasm for and expertise in their writing, to provide a context to celebrate their writing successes, and to recognize student achievement in arts and academics.

You are invited to submit an original written work of 1900 words or fewer to this competition. **Your entry cannot have been written or edited, in part or in whole, by anyone else.** There are no other restrictions on genre selection or creativity (though owing to the static format of the submission, you are limited to static modes of expression – no audio or video recording, no live performance).

Entries may include:

- Academic research (argumentative, expository)
- Academic writing
- Analytical writing
- Blog posts
- Creative nonfiction
- Creative writing
- Drama (short plays, excerpts)
- Essays
- Flash fiction
- Hybrid visual-and-text works
- Literary analysis
- Literary criticism
- Magazine features (human-interest, investigative)
- Personal narratives
- Podcast scripts
- Poetry
- Satirical essays
- Screenplay (short scripts, excerpts)
- Short stories
- Song lyrics
- Speeches
- Student journalism
- Travel writing

• ***Any
other
original
student
writing***

Evaluation guidelines

Your submission will be evaluated by Innovation Academy faculty and staff using the following guidelines:

Expression of Ideas

- Writing suggest/conveys meanings; reflects strong thinking
- Thematic meaning(s) effectively controlled
- Piece is unified and builds upon itself, even if the structure is untraditional
- Sense of clarity of purpose, completeness, and closure

Language Use

- Writing style appropriate to content and genre
- Writing reflects mastery of technical aspects of writing (e.g. control over punctuation and syntax)
- Writer uses language powerfully, via apt/original word choice, unique phrasing
- Strong flow produced via syntactical control and variation
- Writer effectively employs detail, evocative language, and/or imagery to enliven writing and to express ideas

Unique Perspective and Voice

- Uniqueness of writer is evident through stylistic choices
- Writing conveys unique, authentic, original perspective
- Style conveys unique, authentic, original voice

Submissions must not be published online or in print prior to or during this academic year.

If you're interested in submitting a piece of original writing to the Young Georgia Authors writing competition, print a hard-copy of your entry (this copy will NOT be returned!) and have your parents/guardians complete the attached hard-copy entry form – NO ELECTRONIC SUBMISSIONS OR ENTRY FORMS WILL BE ACCEPTED.

Entries and completed entry forms should be submitted to any ELA teacher – or the front office – by 4:15pm Thursday, January 29th

FAQs

What can my entry be about?

There are no prompts – and no guidelines about topics/subjects! Your work will be read and discussed by faculty and staff at IA, and the same rules about written expression in the classroom apply to YGA entries.

What format should I use for my entry?

There is no official mandated font, margin, or alignment for YGA submissions. For most non-experimental submissions, we suggest using standard fonts, margins, and alignments (this document, for example, features a serifed font 10 to 12 points in size, headers of consistent font and size and alignment, and margins of 0.5” all around); all submissions will be evaluated using the criteria stated on the front of this document, and a poorly arranged or difficult-to-read submission may lack clarity, flow, and content/genre alignment.

Can I handwrite my entry? Or parts of my entry?

Sure! Consider why you’re writing your submission by hand, though; there should be some kind of thematic, stylistic, narrative, or otherwise creative reason for handwriting. Otherwise, we’d greatly prefer a typed, printed, easy-to-read submission.

Can I submit something I wrote for a class?

Absolutely! As long as you are the sole author (and contributor! and proofreader! and editor!) of the work, we would love to read the academic work you’re proudest of.

Can I submit something I wrote not for a class?

Definitely! As long as it meets the guidelines presented in this document – including the prohibition on prior publication – any extracurricular writing is welcome.

Can I submit something I wrote with another person?

No; the YGA competition is an individual competition.

Can I have images in my entry?

Absolutely! Note that your hard-copy entry will be the entry evaluated by faculty and staff; if you want to make sure it’s in color (for example), print it in color!

Can my entry include recorded audio or video?

No; entries need to be wholly contained within standard A4-sized printer paper (or smaller). Consider submitting the script for that thing! Or the lyrics for that thing! Or a write-up that explains or evaluates or provides the inspiration for that thing!

Is there a page limit to my entry?

There isn’t – as long as your work occupies 1900 words or less, you can use as many pages as you need to communicate your ideas.

Can I submit more than one entry to YGA?

No; please identify the work that you’re proudest of! (If you’d like your work to reach a larger audience, consider submitting *as many things as you’d like* to IA’s literary magazine!)

Do you have any questions that aren’t addressed on this piece of paper? Please email Mr. Custar (custar@fultonschools.org) or stop by room 267 before first period any school day *before* 1/29/26!

2025-2026 ENTRY FORM
YOUNG GEORGIA AUTHORS WRITING COMPETITION
All entries must be **COMPLETE** and **LEGIBLE**.
RESA Number 4

School District: Fulton County Schools
District Contact Phone Number: 470-254-0465

District Coordinator: Kelley Webb
Email: webbk@fultonschools.org

Title of Student Work: _____

Student Name: _____ **Grade:** _____

Parent/Guardian Name: _____ **Parent/Guardian Email:** _____

Student Home Address: _____
Street/P.O. Box City Zip

School Principal: Scott Kent **Email:** KentS@fultonschools.org **School Name:** Innovation Academy
School Mailing Address: 125 Milton Avenue, Alpharetta GA 30009

REQUIRED SIGNATURES

By signing below, I affirm this writing entry is my own original, unassisted work. This work has not been published online prior to or during this academic year. I agree to have my work entered into the Young Georgia Authors Writing Competition to represent my grade for my local school system.

Student Signature

Date

*By signing below, I affirm that I give my permission for the work of the above-named student author, for whom I am the **parent/guardian**, to be entered into the Young Georgia Authors Writing Competition, and for that work to be shared and/or published by the Georgia Department of Education and/or the Georgia Language Arts Supervisors for non-profit purposes.*

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

*By signing below, I affirm that I am a **system level administrator** and am coordinating the entry of all winning student work from this system for the Young Georgia Authors Competition. I affirm that the work of the above-named student author has been chosen to represent this system for the grade level indicated.*

(parents/students, please disregard this signature line)

District Level Administrator Signature

Date

* Unsigned or incomplete forms will cause the attached entry to be disqualified.
Please make a copy of the entry before submitting. Entries will not be returned