

InScribe Christian Writers' Fellowship Contest Scoring Rubrics – All Categories

CONTENT: All entries can be for the mainstream or Christian market; truth can be presented subtly or overtly, but the piece must not contradict Scripture in any way.

Categories:

1. Opinion Piece up to 1500 words
2. Poetry up to 40 lines, any style. Style must be stated on entry form.
3. Children's Short Story. Ages 5-9. Easy-Read Fiction up to 1000 words. No artwork.
4. Drama up to 1500 words including stage directions. No recordings.
5. Songwriting. Lyrics 1-2 pages. MP3 Recording.

Opinion Piece: up to 1500 words. Must present a clear opinion and elicit a reaction/decision. (Essay, Speech, Sermon, Letter, OP Ed)
Opinion piece can be for the mainstream or Christian market; truth can be presented subtly or overtly, but the piece does not contradict Scripture in any way.

Score Out of 100	<u>Opinion Piece 1500 Words</u>
_/10	Hook: Title and opening pulls reader into the article.
_/10	Original: This piece stands out. It approaches and presents a subject in a fresh way, such as through a unique voice, satire, humour, surprising facts, or unexpected style.
_/10	Relevance: Any topic, as long as the author convinces the reader of its relevance and urgency. Writer convinces reader of the need for this topic to be confronted and acted upon, whether in fun or in seriousness.
_/10	Authority: Author establishes authority on the subject through professional credentials/experience, personal stories, anecdotes, common fact, researched quotes, or ability to persuade.
_/15	Unity: One main point is clear. All anecdotes, ideas and supporting points reinforce the main idea. A central idea glues the piece together; there are no tangents. The conclusion may echo the central idea again. <i>The reader could summarize the main idea in one short sentence.</i>
_/5 and _/5	Flow and Format: Sentence length is varied for a pleasing rhythm and flow. Supporting points flow from the main point and into each other. A logical progression guides the reader to the end.
_/10	Language: Opinion pieces must rest on fact but that doesn't mean only concrete language can be used. This opinion piece will also use literary devices such as metaphor, simile, personification, alliteration, repetition, and so on. These are not ornaments. They help illumine the facts and/or keep the reader engaged.
_/5	Vocabulary: Some extended vocabulary to provide authority and credibility, but enough simple wording to reach a broad demographic of readers.

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_/10	Literacy: Author has a strong command of grammar, punctuation, and spelling. The level of craftsmanship is high.
_/10	Conclusion: The author does not aim to merely inspire, but to confront (whether lightheartedly or strongly), and to evoke an informed, and specific decision. Reader feels compelled to make a decision, or take a stand for or against the presented idea, whether in fun or in all seriousness.

Poetry—A Single Poem, up to 40 lines, any style. The entrant must state the style of poem on the entry form. See this link for different types of poetry:

<http://www.writersdigest.com/whats-new/list-of-50-poetic-forms-for-poets>

Poem can be for the mainstream or Christian market; truth can be presented subtly or overtly, but the piece does not contradict Scripture in any way.

Score out of 100	<u>Poetry up to 40 Lines</u>
_/10	Form/style Does the poem stay true to its type? Is it consistent with its type all the way through? For example, if the poem is presented as a sonnet, does it keep that character true from beginning to end? Each poem should be looked at for what it is and not compared to others. This would include evaluation of the title (its appropriateness, effectiveness, does it add to the poem's meaning?) There are different forms and types of poetry, like sonnets, villanelles, pantoums, free verse, sestina, etc. The poem is judged based on what type it is, and whether or not it stays true to that style.
_/15	15 points. 2. Comprehension / Coherence Do the ideas presented hang together to create a whole? Is there meaning to the writing and is that meaning realized? Is theme handled with originality and freshness?
_/10	10 points 3. Rhyme / Rhythm Are rhyme and/or rhythm a characteristic of this style of poem and if so, are the rhymes natural and sensible or artificial and forced? For more rhythmic poems as well as free verse, is the rhythm consistent with the character of the poem?
_/10	10 points

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	<p>4. Poetic Devices</p> <p>What are the number and effectiveness of the poetic devices used that raise poetry beyond prose? Are the sounds of words (assonance, alliteration) used to good effect? There are many other poetic devices poets use including rhyme, alliteration, personification, metaphor, simile, assonance, anaphora etc. Without their use the writing becomes prose.</p>
_/10	<p>10 points</p> <p>5. Mood / Imagery</p> <p>Does the poem illustrate its message? Does the reader feel the feelings and/or visualize the images presented? How significant are those images to the purpose of the poem? Are the senses (sight, sound, smell, touch, taste) engaged?</p>
_/10	<p>10 points</p> <p>6. Word selection</p> <p>Has the writer chosen words to enable the poem to reach its intent? Are there clichés or overused imagery to weaken the conveyance of meaning?</p>
_/5	<p>5 points</p> <p>7. Line endings / Line breaks</p> <p>Are the line breaks used successfully as visual aids or to create emphasis and to carry the reader to the main significance of the writing? In free verse, are the line endings used to create emphasis and are the line breaks used to create longer significant pauses? If there is enjambment is it used effectively?</p>
_/5	<p>5 points</p> <p>8. Punctuation / Spelling / Grammar</p> <p>Does the poet respect our language conventions and provide punctuation to aid the reader in understanding the poem. Poetry may take liberties with grammar and punctuation but spelling should be correct.</p>
_/15	<p>15 points</p> <p>9. Content and purpose realized</p> <p>The poem had a purpose when it started out. Did the poem realize its intentions? Does it resonate with readers? Is it emotionally engaging?</p>

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_ /10	<p>10 points</p> <p>10. Universality. Is the subject matter meaningful only to the poet or does it apply to the human condition?</p>
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Children's Easy-Read Story – Fiction - Ages 5-9 up to 1000 words. Any genre. Story can be for the mainstream or Christian market; truth can be presented subtly or openly as long as there is no contradiction of Scripture. *Please send your written story only. No artwork.*

Score out of 10 each for a total of 100	<u>Children's Short Story Up to 1000 Words</u>
	Hook: Title and opening pulls reader into the story.
	Voice: Writing is fresh and original, demonstrating the author's <i>unique and consistent voice from beginning to end</i>
	Reader: Style is age-appropriate—short paragraphs of action and dialogue with little description. Age of characters engages those of target audience.
	Viewpoint: Consistent? Clear? Or does head-hopping cause confusion?
	Scene breaks. Do they make sense? Are they logical? Do they jolt the reader out of the story or entice them to keep reading?
	Setting & Description: Setting and physical details contribute to the mood and theme.
	Character Arc: Motivation is strong enough to move the story forward and take the character on a journey in which the main character grows or changes in some way.
	Dialogue: Dialogue develops the characters and their emotions, and it moves the story forward.
	Literacy: Author has a strong command of grammar, punctuation, and spelling. The level of craftsmanship is high.
	Interest & Conclusion: Story holds the reader's interest to the end and provides at the very least a satisfying conclusion or at best a powerful emotional experience.

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Drama – up to 1500 words including stage directions: Drama can be for the mainstream or Christian market; truth can be presented subtly or openly as long as there is no contradiction of Scripture. (All types of Drama are accepted such as scripts, stage plays, screen plays and radio plays). *Please send only your written script. Recorded performances are not accepted.*

Score out of 10 each for a total of 80	<u>Drama Up to 1500 Words</u>
	The opening scene or lines hook the audience, pulling them into the piece.
	The piece does not need to be plot driven, but there is a clearly understood problem or goal at the beginning that is developed to a satisfying resolution.
	The piece has emotional impact in keeping with its purpose. (comedy, tragedy, reflective monologue etc.)
	The dialogue sounds natural and is in keeping with each specific character, moving the story forward without being expository.
	Character motivation is clearly developed throughout the piece with evident growth on the part of the protagonist.
	The setting, if important to the overall message of the piece, is delineated through the dialogue and/or actions and is not dependent on an elaborate set or props.
	Necessary stage directions and character attributes are included but not overused to leave room for the artistic license of the director.
	The piece is written in a standard play format with the correct use of dialogue tags and stage directions set apart for ease of understanding. If more than one scene is needed, this includes the proper delineation of scenes.

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Song-writing – Any genre. 1-2 pages. Song can be for the mainstream or the Christian market; truth can be presented subtly or openly as long as there is no contradiction of scripture. MP3 Recording – production quality and vocal ability are not part of judged criteria.

Score Out of 35 total	<u>Song-writing Lyrics 1- 2 pages and MP3 Recording</u>
Overall Impression /5	Song displays creativity; originality; has a strong title and opening line; effectively stirs emotion in the listener; and is crafted with care and thought.
Lyrics /10	Song has a clear theme; uses active (not passive) verbs; lyrics are meaningful/authentic; lyrics are conversational and natural (not forced); song has a strong lyrical hook; engages multiple senses; clever use of phrases; avoids clichés and redundancies; consistent point of view/tone/tense; and paints word pictures effectively.
Use of poetic devices /5	Effective use of poetic devices (at least five for full points) including alliteration, assonance, consonance, repetition, rhyming, allegory, allusion, analogy, contrast, hyperbole, irony, metaphor, oxymoron, paradox, personification, pun, simile, symbol, etc.
Structure /5	Song has a clear structure (/2), makes use of verse/chorus/bridge to tell/advance the story (/2), and displays effective use of pre-chorus, post-chorus, and/or tags to increase interest.
Melody & Arrangement /10	Song is sing-able (/2); has a clear musical hook; melody is interesting/fresh; melody is unique/memorable; song follows rules of prosody; effective chord progressions (/2); pleasing meter; and bridge effectively adds drama through music and/or lyrics.