

**NASSAU READING COUNCIL
YOUNG AUTHORS' CONTEST**

October, 2017

Dear Colleagues:

Nassau Reading Council is pleased to announce its thirty-fifth annual **Young Authors' Contest**. The purposes of this contest are:

- to encourage writing in the classroom
- to honor quality in the classroom
- to provide additional audiences for student authors through publication in the Nassau Reading Council Young Author Contest Book
- to celebrate writing and the writer

Please read the attached "**Procedures and Rules**" and "**Rubrics**" for additional information. Feel free to photocopy it and distribute it to your faculty.

*****This year, the entries will be due February 16th, 2018.*****

The winning authors will be honored at an awards ceremony in June. Winning entries will be printed in the 2017-2018 edition of the contest book published and distributed to each school that enters.

Please distribute the guidelines and encourage your students to write. **Procedures and rules must be adhered to in order for the entries to be considered for the competition.**

We encourage you to offer your students this opportunity to write for a wider audience and to enjoy the pride of publication. We are eager to read your students' entries.

Sincerely,

Donna Tassone (e-mail:dt210b@aol.com) RE: Young Authors' Contest
Uniondale SD

Sarah DiRusso
Uniondale SD

Jennifer Navarra
Valley Stream SD#13

For emergencies only: Donna Tassone 516-775-1142

2017-2018 NASSAU READING COUNCIL
YOUNG AUTHORS' CONTEST
PROCEDURES AND RULES

ELIGIBILITY

This contest is open to students in Kindergarten through Grade 12 in Nassau County's public, private, and parochial schools. Finalists will be selected from the following grade level groupings:

Kindergarten	Fifth Grade
First Grade	Sixth Grade
Second Grade	Seventh and Eighth Grades
Third Grade	Ninth and Tenth Grades
Fourth Grade	Eleventh and Twelfth Grades

FORM

Students' writing should be personal narratives in either prose or poetry format. A personal narrative is writing derived from the author's own experience, in which feelings are expressed and events are recreated. Other genres will be disqualified. **THE STUDENT'S FULL NAME, GRADE, SCHOOL, DISTRICT, AND TEACHER'S NAME MUST APPEAR ON THE REVERSE SIDE OF THE LAST PAGE.**

WORD LIMIT

There is no word limit per entry.

NUMBER OF ENTRIES

A school may submit only **five entries per grade level grouping**. This means that each school will have to establish criteria for judging entries prior to submitting writings to the contest. Only the first five entries from each grade level grouping will be considered by the committee.

ENTRY FEE

There is a fee of **\$30.00** per school to help defray the costs of mailing, printing, and awards. **Fee is payable to Nassau Reading Council. Please include with entries.**

CRITERIA FOR JUDGING

Entries will be evaluated for content, authenticity, voice, focus, organization and mechanics. A committee of the Nassau Reading Council will judge entries.

ORIGINALITY

All work must be drafted, revised, edited, and put into final form by the students **during school time**. Approximate spelling is acceptable for students in Kindergarten through third grade. Entries should be neatly written **on one side of the page**, or entries may be typed and submitted.

SCHOOL SUMMARY SHEET

Entries must be accompanied by the enclosed summary sheet. All information should be carefully/clearly printed or typed. We will not judge material submitted with incomplete summary sheets.

MAILING ADDRESS

Each school's entries, the School Summary Sheet and the \$30.00 entry fee, payable to "Nassau Reading Council", should be **mailed together** to:

**Donna Tassone
632 South 9th Street
New Hyde Park, NY 11040**

DEADLINE

All entries must be **postmarked before ***February 16, 2018***** Entries will not be returned so you are advised to make copies for personal use. Please make sure you write a return address and the words "Young Authors' Contest" on the envelope. **Do not send by certified/signature required mail.** (We'll e-mail received response)

AWARDS

Winning entries will be honored at an awards ceremony at Molloy College in early June. A special invitation will be sent to each winner and their teacher in May, as well as coordinators of all participating schools. Each entrant will receive a NRC Certificate of Merit in June, 2018. Participating schools will receive a copy of the 2018 edition of the contest book.

NASSAU READING COUNCIL YOUNG AUTHORS' CONTEST

School Contest Coordinator/Classroom Teacher:

Please judge (send) only Personal Narratives in the form of a story or poem. *Personal narratives recount an experience that actually happened to the writer.* All details work together in an integrated way to create a complete piece of writing with a beginning, middle, and end.

Please review the rubric as you choose your school's entries. They'll be judged in this manner throughout the contest!

Scorer's Initials					
Engages the reader with an attention-getting lead					
Develops a strong voice; the unique way the writer expresses her/himself on the page					
Uses language that enhances the narrative					
Writes in a coherent and organized manner					
Provides a sense of closure					

