

NC College Media Association Literary Magazine Contest Guidelines

The following guidelines are provided to help you select your publication's best work for contest submission. Entries must originate from a North Carolina college or university and must be original student work.

Poetry

- Should use interesting and original language.
- Poems may be of any length, style and subject matter.
- Poems should demonstrate effective use of literary techniques and traditions (such as alliteration, repetition, personification, allusion, rhyme scheme, meter, blank verse/free verse), while being inventive and unique.
- Structure, organization and word choice should be appropriate for the work's purpose.

Fiction

- Should use interesting and original language
- Prose should demonstrate effective use of literary techniques and traditions (such as flashbacks, foreshadowing, allusion, point of view, imagery), while being inventive and unique.
- Themes, characters and structure should be clear, well-developed and interesting.
- Plot should be logical, without being predictable.

Nonfiction

- Should show originality and unique insight.
- Should be written in an engaging style with a clear focus.
- Essays should develop an argument or consider a question. Entries might also include subgenres such as personal essay, lyric essay, literary journalism, opinion and biography.
- Structure should be clear and, when appropriate, incorporate research and attribution.

Two-page spread

- Should show effective use of design elements such as typography, placement and whitespace.
- Should be well-balanced and consistent.
- Should reflect innovation and creativity.
- Should relate to and support associated content.
- Should reflect intentional, informed design choices.

Photography/Art

- Should show originality and unique insight.
- Artwork can be hand-drawn or digitally generated.
- Should provide evidence of artistic composition in its subject, balance, variety, tone and color.
- Should have a strong impact on the viewer.

Best of Show

In evaluating literary magazines, judges assess written and visual components. The magazine should incorporate a range of prose, poetry and design elements that represents the school and community. Issues should include a diversity of subjects, genres and authors. The magazine should be thoughtfully organized and reflect its mission. Careful editing should be evident.