

# YOUNG WRITERS AWARD: Writing criteria

<p><b>IDEAS:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The idea is clear and coherent.</li> <li>• The text is well developed, which includes a paragraph/s.</li> <li>• The writer offers believable, accurate details that create pictures in the reader's mind from the beginning of the piece to the end.</li> <li>• Pictures (if present) enhance the key ideas.</li> </ul> <p><i>(For secondary students only)</i>  <i>Thoughtful exploration of complex ideas with interesting perspectives is evident.</i></p>	<p><b>ORGANISATION:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The title is thoughtful and effective.</li> <li>• There is a clear beginning, middle and end.</li> <li>• The writer grabs the reader's attention from the start and leads into the writing piece naturally.</li> <li>• Important ideas are highlighted within the text.</li> <li>• The text slows down and speeds up to highlight ideas and shows the writer's skill at pacing.</li> <li>• Clear transitions connect one sentence to the next.</li> </ul>	<p><b>VOICE:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The writer is mindful of the piece's audience and connects purposefully with the reader.</li> <li>• The tone is identifiable eg. bittersweet, compassionate, frustrated, terrified and so on.</li> <li>• The writer creates a truly individual piece of writing.</li> <li>• The writing is expressive and compelling.</li> </ul>
<p><b>WORD CHOICE:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The writer uses everyday words and phrases with a fresh and original spin.</li> <li>• The writer paints a clear picture in the reader's mind.</li> <li>• Figurative language works reasonably well, such as alliteration, similes and metaphors.</li> <li>• Colourful words/WOW words are used correctly and with creativity to capture the reader's imagination and to enhance meaning.</li> </ul> <p><i>(For secondary students only)</i>  <i>Some difficult and challenging words are effectively and accurately used.</i></p>	<p><b>SENTENCE FLUENCY:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Effective use of varied sentence beginnings.</li> <li>• The piece is easy to read - capturing a smooth and rhythmic flow.</li> <li>• The writer thinks about how the sentences sound. Crafting well built sentences.</li> <li>• Varying Sentence types - simple, compound, complex.</li> <li>• Different kinds of sentences (statements, commands, questions, and exclamations) are present.</li> </ul>	<p><b>CONVENTIONS:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• High use words are spelt correctly and others are easy to read and phonetically correct.</li> <li>• The writer applies basic capitalisation rules with consistency.</li> <li>• Punctuation marks are used effectively to guide the reader.</li> <li>• The writer uses more advanced punctuation (dashes, ellipses, quotation marks).</li> <li>• Standard English grammar is used correctly.</li> <li>• Consistent use of tense and person.</li> </ul>