

YOUNG GEORGIA AUTHORS

WRITING COMPETITION

2020-2021

OFFICIAL RULES BOOKLET

ABOUT THE YOUNG GEORGIA AUTHORS WRITING COMPETITION

The purpose of the Young Georgia Authors (YGA) writing competition 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.

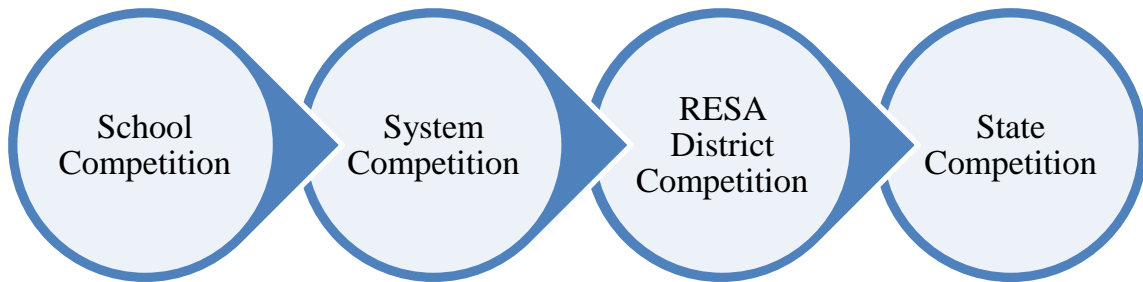
This prestigious competition has been engaging Georgia students for more than two decades and is open to any student currently enrolled in Georgia **public** schools, grades K-12. The competition is sponsored by the Georgia Language Arts Supervisors (GLAS) and the Georgia RESA Network with support from the Georgia Department of Education.

Questions? Contact your RESA YGA Coordinator!

A list of RESA YGA Coordinators is provided at the end of this document.

ENTRY OVERVIEW

Writings shall be entered into the state-level competition by winning the tiered levels: (a) local school, (b) district, (c) RESA District, and then (d) state. School systems may submit ONE winning entry per grade level (K-12) to the RESA-level competition. RESA-level winners will advance to the state-level competition.



WRITING TYPES

Unlike many writing competitions, YGA does not provide a prompt to which students must respond or provide any other boundaries to their genre choice or creativity beyond a 1900-word maximum length. Entries may include:

- Short Stories
- Poetry
- Essays/Literary Criticism/Analysis
- Journalism
- Academic/Research Reports
- Personal Narratives
- Any Other Original Student Writing

Evaluation Guidelines*

Below are the guidelines by which entries will be evaluated by state-level competition judges.

Expression of Ideas
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Writing suggests/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
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Uniqueness of writer is evident through stylistic choices • Writing conveys unique, authentic, original perspective • Style conveys unique, authentic, original voice

*Evaluation guidelines adapted from NCTE competition guidelines.

SELECTION PROCEDURES

1. The writing contest begins with a school-wide competition. Grade-level winners should be sent to the system coordinator by the date determined by your designated System Coordinator.
2. A system-level contest must be held. ONE winning entry per grade from the system contest shall be submitted from a system-level administrator to the RESA ELA Specialist or designee. Multiple entries by grade will be disqualified. Individual entries sent by teachers, students, or schools will not be judged.
3. Winning entries from each system must be received by the RESA District ELA Supervisor no later than **5:00 p.m. on Thursday, February 25, 2021**. Entries received after this deadline will not be accepted. RESA YGA Coordinators may also set an earlier submission deadline. Electronic versus paper submission is the preference of your RESA. If your RESA chooses electronic submission, those submission guidelines will be provided to you by the RESA YGA Coordinator.
4. Judging will be conducted by an appointed committee of English Language Arts professionals convened by the RESA YGA Coordinator for the purpose of selecting a RESA Winner at each grade level. The RESA YGA Coordinator should log each district's winner for grade levels K-12, prepare a master list of entries and safeguard the names and identifying school of origin in order to protect the integrity of the judging process. Judges shall not be aware of the name of the student or school of origin. Once the RESA-level winners have been determined, the RESA YGA Coordinator will send the entry form, original entry, and one copy of each grade-level winner with a composite list of the names of the winners. **The deadline to receive the RESA winners to GLAS is Thursday, March 25, 2021.** Entries received after that date will not be judged.
5. State-level winners will be announced on the GLAS website (<http://galangartssup.weebly.com/young-georgia-authors.html>) and the GaDOE website (<http://www.gadoe.org/Curriculum-Instruction-and-Assessment/Curriculum-and-Instruction/Pages/English-Language-Arts-Program.aspx>).

Frequently Asked Questions:

- Q. *The instructions reference the "original" work, but then they talk about making sure that there is certain header information on each page of the original and the copy.*
- A. Original work refers to work that the student created without the help of others. System coordinators are asked to verify that each system winner has the proper heading. This information may be handwritten and must be on each page of the entry.
- Q. *Do we submit all drafts or just the final copy?*
- A. Final copy
- Q. *My students collaborated on a writing project. May I submit multiple names for system consideration?*
- A. YGA is a writing contest for individuals. While we support collaboration in the classroom, only one student per grade level in each school system may advance to the RESA level.

GENERAL RULES

Entries must meet the following guidelines:

1. The entry must include a completed **entry form, including signatures of the student, the parent/guardian, and the designated system level administrator**. Incomplete entry forms will be eliminated from the competition.
2. The submitted entry, in part or entirety, must not be published online or in print prior to or during the current academic year.
3. The original **student work** must be submitted.
 - a. Each entry must be the student's original work (this includes all edits, revisions, and publication) and must be typed or handwritten on 8.5x11 inch paper. Print on one side of the paper only.
 - b. The maximum length of the original student work is 1900 words. If your submission nears the 1900 word maximum, please include a word count. Dictated stories must follow the approved state testing accommodation guidelines for dictation. Do not bind, make a cover for, decorate, laminate, or otherwise alter the original paper on which the entry is written.
 - c. Use paper clips or binder clips. Do not use staples.
 - d. The submitted entry must have the name of the student and student's school removed.
 - e. Record the student's initials, grade, and RESA district number at top and center of **each page** of the original and copy in the following manner:

SAMPLE OF TOP OF EACH PAGE OF THE ORIGINAL AND COPY SUBMITTED		
ABC (Student Initials)	3 rd (Grade)	RESA 8 (RESA District)

FOR SYSTEM COORDINATORS

1. Ensure each system-level winning entry meets the entry guidelines and the entry form is complete.
2. Submit system-level winning entries to your RESA YGA Coordinator. *RESA Coordinators have the flexibility to set an earlier submission deadline, so please pay careful attention to communication about this competition from your RESA.* Electronic versus paper submission is the decision of your RESA.
 - a. If submitting PAPER copies:
 - i. Paperclip together the completed and signed entry form, the original work, and a copy for each grade-level winning entry.
 - ii. Use the cover page template provided to list your system-level winning entries.
 - iii. Submit your system-level winning entries to your RESA YGA Coordinator. Entries must be received no later than 5:00 p.m. on Thursday, February 25, 2021.
 - b. If submitting ELECTRONICALLY, your RESA YGA Coordinator will share the submission guidelines.
3. *If you have questions about school-level or system-level competitions, please contact your RESA Coordinator for guidance.*

FOR RESA ELA SPECIALISTS/COORDINATORS

1. Ensure each RESA-level winning entry meets the entry guidelines and the entry form is complete.
2. Entries must be received no later than 5:00 p.m. on Thursday, March 25, 2021. You may either submit RESA-Level winners electronically or on paper, but **electronic submission is preferred**.
 - a. If submitting entries ELECTRONICALLY:
 - i. Scan entries as separate PDF files. Use the following file naming convention: **RESA NUMBER.Grade Level.ENTRY** (Example – 11.6.ENTRY). Ensure that the entry is legible after scanning.
 - ii. Scan the completed RESA-Winner cover page and entry forms in K-12 order as a PDF file. Use the following naming convention: **RESA NUMBER.ENTRY FORMS** (Example – 11.ENTRY FORMS).
 - iii. Upload cover page and entry files (a total of 14 separate files) to the shared Google Drive folder. Email GLAS (galangartssupervisors@gmail.com) once your RESA-Level entries are uploaded or if you need the link to your RESA’s shared folder.
 - b. If submitting PAPER copies:
 - i. Paper clip together the entry form, the original work, and the copy for each grade-level winning entry.
 - ii. Use the cover page template provided to list your RESA-level winning entries.
 - iii. Mail all RESA-level winning entries (entry form, original, and copy) in the same packet to Dr. Amy Fouse (1100 Main Street; Perry, Georgia 31069).

2020-2021 ENTRY FORM

YOUNG GEORGIA AUTHORS WRITING COMPETITION

All entries must be **COMPLETE** and **LEGIBLE**.

RESA Number _____

School District: _____ District Coordinator: _____

Name and Title/Position

District Contact Phone Number: _____ Email: _____

Title of Student Work: _____

Student Name: _____ Grade: _____

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

Student Home Address: _____

Street/P.O. Box City Zip

School Contact (teacher/principal): _____

School: _____ School Phone: _____

School Contact Email: _____

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.*

District Level Administrator Signature

Date

* Unsigned or incomplete forms will cause the attached entry to be disqualified. Attach this completed form to the top of each student entry, along with one photocopy of the entry. Remove the student's name and school from the entry itself. Label the top of each page of the entry with the student's initials, grade level, and RESA number. Please make a copy of the entry before submitting. Entries will not be returned.

SYSTEM-LEVEL WINNERS

YOUNG GEORGIA AUTHORS WRITING COMPETITION 2020-2021

*****Your RESA ELA Specialist will notify you about your RESA's format for submission (paper vs. electronic).
If you have any questions, contact your RESA.*****

- **Paper Submissions:** Send this form with all system-level winning entries (entry form, original, and copy) as one packet to the designated RESA ELA Specialist in time for it to be received (not postmarked) no later than 5:00 p.m. on February 25, 2021.
- **Electronic Submissions:** Contact your RESA ELA Specialist for submission instructions.

School System: _____ RESA District # _____

System Administrator Contact: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Note: Ensure each system-level winning entry meets the entry guidelines. Paper clip together the completed and signed entry form, the original work, and the copy (if not submitting electronically) for each grade-level winning entry. Include this cover sheet with your system-level winning entries.

GRADE	SCHOOL	STUDENT NAME	TITLE OF WORK
K			
1			
2			
3			
4			
5			
6			
7			
8			
9			
10			
11			
12			

Student work will not be returned - Remember to keep copies.

RESA-LEVEL WINNERS

YOUNG GEORGIA AUTHORS WRITING COMPETITION 2020-2021

- *Electronic Submission (PREFERRED):* Follow instructions provided on page 3. Email GLAS (galangartssupervisors@gmail.com) once your RESA-Level entries are uploaded.
- *Paper Submission:* Send this form with all RESA-level winning entries (entry form, original, and copy) in the same packet to Dr. Amy Fouse (1100 Main Street; Perry, Georgia 31069) in time for it to be received (not postmarked) no later than 5:00 p.m. on March 25, 2021.

RESA Contact: _____ RESA District # _____

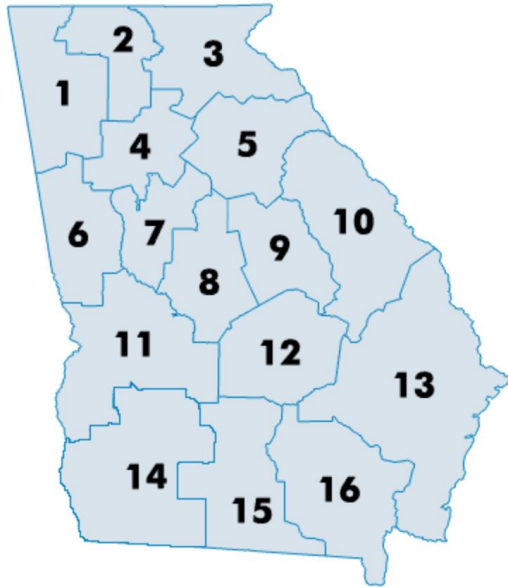
Phone: _____ Email: _____

Note: Entries that do not meet entry guidelines will be disqualified.

GRADE	SCHOOL	STUDENT NAME	TITLE OF WORK
K			
1			
2			
3			
4			
5			
6			
7			
8			
9			
10			
11			
12			

Student work will not be returned - Remember to keep copies.

RESA-LEVEL COMPETITION CONTACTS



- 1 - Northwest Georgia
- 2 - North Georgia
- 3 - Pioneer
- 4 - Metro
- 5 - Northeast Georgia
- 6 - West Georgia
- 7 - Griffin
- 8 - Middle Georgia
- 9 - Oconee
- 10 - Central Savannah
- 11 - Chattahoochee-Flint
- 12 - Heart of Georgia
- 13 - First District
- 14 - Southwest Georgia
- 15 - Coastal Plains
- 16 - Okefenokee

For a list of RESAs by system, click here:

[http://www.gadoe.org/Pages/Regional-Education-Service-Agencies-\(RESAs\).aspx](http://www.gadoe.org/Pages/Regional-Education-Service-Agencies-(RESAs).aspx)

#	RESA	YGA Contact	E-mail
10	Central Savannah River RESA	Laura Hooven Mary Stout	lhooven@csaresa.org mstout@csaresa.org
11	Chattahoochee-Flint RESA	Shana Griffin	sgriffin@chattflint.org
15	Coastal Plains RESA	Darlene Watson	darlenewatson@cpresa.org
13	First District RESA	Kristin O'Steen	kosteen@fdresa.org
7	Griffin RESA	Tammy Arnold	tarnold@griffinresa.net
12	Heart of Georgia RESA	Connie Howell	connieahowell@gmail.com
4	Metro RESA	Kelley York	kelley.york@mresa.org
8	Middle Georgia RESA	Robin Smith	rsmith@mgresa.us
2	North Georgia RESA	David Thacker	David.thacker@ngresa.org
5	Northeast Georgia RESA	Kristi Holloway	kristi.holloway@negaresa.org
1	Northwest Georgia RESA	Stephanie Montgomery Karen Faircloth	smontgomery@nwgaresa.com kfaircloth@nwgaresa.com
9	Oconee RESA	Paulene Roberson	paulene.roberson@oconeeresas.org
16	Okefenokee RESA	Cindy Hitt	chitt@okresa.org
3	Pioneer RESA	Jan Black	jblack@pioneerresa.org
14	Southwest Georgia RESA	Gwen Lee Nancy Slocumb	glee@swresa.org nslocumb@swresa.org
6	West Georgia RESA	Barbara Bishop	bbishop@garesa.org