

Beautiful Balance Inspirations *Inspired Soar Higher Youth Writing Contest*



1. Eligibility is open to all students in 5-12th grades whose residence is in Crawford Central, PENNCREST, or Conneaut Area school districts. Private schools, Cyberschools, and homeschooled students residing in these areas are also eligible.
2. Publication rights will be to Beautiful Balance Inspirations, 501c3, nonprofit, private foundation, EIN#84-2698570. We retain the right to the first publication of prize-winning entries. Authors retain all other copyrights.
3. Prizes will be given first through third places.
4. Prizes will be in two age groups, **middle school age 5th -8th grade, and high school 9th -12th grade.**
5. **Prizes:**
 - a. **First Place- T-shirt+ \$150**
 - b. **Second Place-T-shirt + \$75**
 - c. **Third Place-T-shirt + \$50**
 - d. **Prize winners will be published in a booklet. The booklet will be available for families to purchase at \$15.00. All proceeds will go to Beautiful Balance Inspirations for the 2026 contest. One copy will be given to each winner.**
6. Limit one entry per student in each category. (total of four entries possible)
7. **Submissions accepted April 1st-April 30th, 2024.**
8. Qualifications for all entries must be the original work of the contestant.
9. No entries will be returned (judges notes may be passed on for feedback)
10. Judging Criteria:
 - a. Aptness of title (title must suit the student's entry).
 - b. Suitability (appropriateness to contest category and age level).
 - c. Continuity of theme.
 - d. Craftsmanship (quality, appropriate mechanics, and grammar).
 - e. Each Category will have four other dimensions of judging (see list on website)
 - f. Each criterion will be worth a score of zero to five points. A perfect score is 45.
11. Note to Parents and Teachers: Please communicate all rules to your students. Students must choose their own topic and submit in good form. All work, including editing, must be the student's work. Adults should give good feedback for editing assistance.
12. Follow the format instructions listed in each category box:

General Fiction

Any Genre

1. Entry must have a title.
2. Type written, 12 Font, 1-inch margins, double spaced, 8.5x11inch paper.
250 word minimum (~1/2 page typed) to 2,500 word maximum (~10 page typed). Category-genre-
DO NOT PLACE STUDENT'S NAME ON STORY ENTRY.
3. Place student's name on the entry form only.
This is for impartial judging please.
4. Story must contain setting, main character, beginning, middle and ending.
5. Theme must be evident.
6. **Sign and submit by April 30th, 2024.**

Memoir/Personal Essay

1. Entry must have a title.
2. Type written, 12 Font, 1-inch margins, double spaced, 8.5x11inch paper.
250 word minimum (~1/2 page typed) to 2,500 word maximum (~10 pages typed).
DO NOT PLACE THE STUDENT'S NAME ON THE STORY ENTRY.
3. Place student's name on the entry form only.
This is for impartial judging please.
4. This category is a nonfiction, real life story about the student or their experiences.
5. **Sign and submit by April 30th, 2024.**

Poetry

Long and Short Poems

Any Genre

1. Entry must have a title.
2. Type written, 12 font, 1-inch margins, double spaced, 8.5x11 inch paper.
3. 3-line minimum up to 20-line maximum poem for each poem entry.
4. Up to three poems may be submitted as one entry, on a single page, if they are all in the same style and genre. Each poem must have a title.
5. DO NOT PLACE THE STUDENT'S NAME ON THE POEM.
6. Place student's name on the entry form only. This is for impartial judging, please.
7. **Sign and submit by April 30th, 2024.**

Inspirational/Devotional

1. Entry must have a title.
2. Type written, 12 Font, 1-inch margins, double spaced, 8.5x 11-inch paper.
3. 250 word minimum (1/2 page typed) to 2,500 word maximum (~10 pages typed).
4. DO NOT PLACE THE STUDENT'S NAME ON ENTRY.
5. Place the student's name on the entry form only.
This is for impartial judging, please.
6. **Inspirational** entry may be nonfiction or fiction, any inspiring story.
7. **Sign and submit by April 30th, 2024.**
8. **Devotional writing entry follow this format:**
 - a. Verses or passages from Wisdom literature must be cited.
 - b. Wisdom literature will be any religious book or sacred document recognized by any major religion or subculture therein.
 - c. The verse or passage will be quoted and or cited. (English versions must be used)
 - d. The student must then submit a short illustration, personal testimony, poem, praise, or encouragement inspired by the passage.
 - e. The student will finish the devotional with a life application about the passage for others to gain wisdom and understanding.
 - f. **Sign and submit by April 30th, 2024.**

Beautiful Balance Inspirations

Winner's names and school names will appear in publications. Photograph is preferred to place in the published book.

Meadville Tribune will photograph winners.
Direct question to Ellen Byham, 814-724-9042
beautifulbalanceinspirations@gmail.com

Beautiful Balance Inspirations,
www.beautifulbalanceinspirations.org



<https://www.facebook.com/BBwisdom/>

Fiction Genre ideas:

Alternate History

Comedy

Fantasy

Fairy Tale

Historical Fiction

Horror

Mystery

Science Fiction

Thriller/Suspense

(There are around 144 genre and subgenres of fiction! Have fun writing)

Poetry Genre Ideas:

Free Verse

Haiku

Sonnet

Blank Verse

Limerick

Tanka

Cinquain

Sestina

Personal Memoir/Personal Essay

Non-Fiction-Real life

Memoir is a specific type of narrative. It is autobiographical in nature, but it is not meant to be as comprehensive as biography (which tells the entire life story of a person). Instead, a **memoir** is usually only a specific "slice" of one's life.

Personal essay is typically written in first-person about something **in the** narrator's life.

Devotional

Non-Fiction- Real life

Uses **Wisdom literature** and the writer composes an encouraging illustration (mind picture), personal testimony, poem, or praise around the passage of choice from the Wisdom literature. It is finished with a life application from the passage.

Inspirational

Non-fiction-this would be a story about a life situation that is inspiring to the writer and to those who read the work. An overcomer story, a challenge met, a big win, making it through a hard situation.

Fiction-This would an inspiring story written about fictional characters or places. It can have the same themes as non-fiction such as an overcomer story, a big win, making it through a hard situation but with all fictional characters and places.

Students:

Do your research.

Ask your teachers for help in understanding a genre you would like to write.

Do your own work.

You must edit your own work, take your time. Get some adult help for editing, the more eyes on your work for assistance the better!

Type up the final draft yourself.

Submit in each one of the categories for experience!

Four chances to win if you submit in each category!

Contact Beautiful Balance Inspirations with any questions.

beautifulbalanceinspirations@gmail.com

Inspired Soar Higher 2024-Beautiful Balance Inspirations Youth Writing Contest Two ways to Enter:

Complete a form for each entry. Please write legibly.
Print a copy of the entry with "TITLE ONLY".
Staple a completed, signed entry form to student story and mail it by:
Deadline: April 30th, 2024, Mail To:

Beautiful Balance Inspirations
Attn: Ellen Byham
25758 State Street
Saegertown, PA 16433

Entry ONLINE IS PREFERRED.



www.beautifulbalanceinspirations.org

Entry Form Must be filled out completely and signed!

Student Writer's Name: _____

Home address: _____

City, State and Zip Code: _____

Name of Parent or Guardian: _____

Parent or Guardian email address: _____

School Name: _____

Teacher Name: _____

School Address: _____

School Phone Number: _____

Student's Grade: 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 (Circle writer's grade)

Student's T-shirt size: _____

Category: General Fiction Poetry Memoir/Personal Essay Inspirational/Devotional (Circle Category)

Limit: one entry per student in each chosen category

Title of Entry: _____

Signature of Student Writer: _____

Please attach your typed story entry with "TITLE ONLY" (do not place your name on the story).