



IRVING BLACK ARTS COUNCIL

PROMISING YOUNG WRITERS CALL FOR ENTRIES

Irving and Grand Prairie High School and Middle School Students

Poetry • Essays • Short Story

Interest Form Due: September 30, 2026

Original Work Due: September 30, 2026

INTRODUCTION:

Poems, essays, and short stories are invited from Irving middle and high school students. Original works reflect experiences and unleash creativity through writing and creative thinking. Each entry must be entirely original and written directly by the student contestant, with minimal guidance from others, including teachers, parents and artificial intelligence tools.

GUIDELINES:

Poetry: Lyrical, ballad, sonnet, limerick, ode, prose.

Eligibility: **Irving and Grand Prairie middle school and high school students**

Maximum Length: Maximum 20 lines.

Entries are judged on written words, structure, clarity, and meaning.

Essays:

Eligibility: **Irving and Grand Prairie High school students**

Length: 350 words, typed double-spaced.

Criteria: Entries judged on originality, analysis, evidence, structure, and presentation.

Analysis: A thorough understanding of the subject, supported by strong arguments.

Evidence: Well-substantiated arguments using credible, integrated sources.

Structure: Logical organization, clear progression of ideas, and smooth transitions.

Presentation: Meticulously edited, formal, grammatically correct, and precisely worded academic writing.

Essay Topic:

“Civil Engagement: Political Participation, Community Action, and Advocacy and Activism”

Short Stories:

Eligibility: **Irving and Grand Prairie Middle and high school students**

Maximum Length: 350 words, typed, double-spaced.

Structure: Logical organization, clear progression of ideas, and smooth transitions.

Presentation: Meticulously edited, formal, grammatically correct, and precisely worded academic writing.

KEY DATES:

Interest Form Due: September 30, 2026

Original Poem, Essay, or Short Story Due: September 30, 2026

Invitations to Reception: October 10, 2026

Reception and Winners Announced: October 24, 2026

Awards (per category):

1st Place: \$350

2nd Place: \$250

3rd Place \$150

Honorable Mention: Certificate and Gift Card

SUBMISSION OF FORM AND WORK:

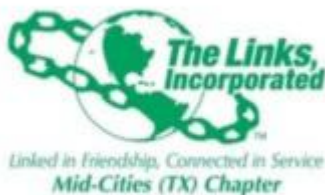
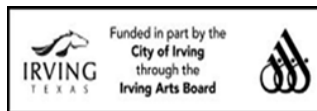
Please ensure that the documents are received by the dates noted.

Email: jgmiller6@verizon.net

U.S. Mail:

**Irving Black Arts Council
Irving Arts Center
3333 N. MacArthur Blvd.
Suite 200
Irving, TX 75062**

Promising Young Writers is funded in part by the Mid-Cities (TX) Chapter of The Links, Incorporated and Irving Arts Board.





IRVING BLACK ARTS COUNCIL
Irving & Grand Prairie Promising Young Writers Interest
Form

KEY DATES:

Interest Form Due: September 30, 2026

Original Poem, Essay, or Short Story Due: September 30, 2026

Invitations to Reception: October 10, 2026

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Student Name: _____

Student Address: _____

Telephone: _____ Email: _____

School _____ Grade _____

Entry (check one):

Poetry ☐

Essay ☐

Short Story ☐

Parent Signature

Date

Student Signature

Date

Return form by September 10, 2026.

Please ensure that the documents are received by the key dates noted.

Email: jgmiller6@verizon.net

U.S. Mail:

Jearlene Miller
Irving Black Arts Council
Irving Arts Center
3333 N. MacArthur Blvd.
Suite 200
Irving, TX 75062

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