



Michigan Association
of Christian Schools

Dr. Douglas R. Jackson
President

989-781-2340

Dr. Tim Schmig
Executive Director

810-513-3680

2680 East M21, Corunna, MI 48817

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It is time to prepare to have your students involved in our annual MACS Essay and Poetry Contest for Grades 4 – 6, Jr. High (grades 7 – 9) and Sr. High (grades 10 – 12). We trust you will encourage each of your students in these grades to participate!

All 13 pages you need to print out are here. Please read over the guidelines carefully. You are welcome to use the judging sheets to narrow down your entries to two per grade level for each category. Schools should photocopy their school entries if they wish to mark on them as they perform for their school judging. Original works must be submitted without any marks for the state competition. Schools should only send the original copy. Your judging sheets should remain in your possession. After judging, the entries will be mailed back to your school along with the judging sheets so each student may review them.

The cost for each student per category is **\$9.00** for member schools and **\$10.00** for non-MACS member schools. A **\$25 late fee** will be charged for registrations postmarked **after December 4, 2026**.

I will be receiving entries for the poetry and essay contest and getting them to the person grading them. All entries must be received by **January 8, 2027**. Please mail the entries as soon as they are finished (**before the Christmas break, if possible**).

Complete the registration form, **make checks payable to MACS** and mail them to:

Registrations and Entries mailed to:

MACS Essay & Poetry Contest
Immanuel Baptist Academy
Attn: Stefanie Clark
2680 E. M-21
Corunna, MI 48817

Thank you for your support and participation in the MACS Essay and Poetry Contest. As always, if you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at admin4macs@gmail.com or (989) 277-8129.

Respectfully,

Stefanie Clark
MACS Essay and Poetry Contest Coordinator

MICHIGAN ASSOCIATION OF CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS
POETRY & ESSAY REGISTRATION FORM

School Name: _____

Phone: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

Administrator: _____

Testing Supervisor: _____ Email: _____

Send this form along with your Registration Fee (make checks payable to MACS) to:

MACS Essay and Poetry Contest
Immanuel Baptist Academy
Attn.: Stefanie Clark
2680 E. M-21
Corunna, MI 48817

Registration and Registration Fee is due December 4, 2026

We are a MACS Member school:

Number of 4 th – 6 th Entries:	_____	X	\$9.00 Fee = \$ _____
Number of 7 th – 9 th Entries:	_____	X	\$9.00 Fee = \$ _____
Number of 10 th – 12 th Entries:	_____	X	\$9.00 Fee = \$ _____

We are not a MACS member school:

Number of 4 th – 6 th Entries:	_____	X	\$10.00 Fee = \$ _____
Number of 7 th – 9 th Entries:	_____	X	\$10.00 Fee = \$ _____
Number of 10 th -12 th Entries:	_____	X	\$10.00 Fee = \$ _____

For Poetry & Essay, entries are limited to two per grade, per category, please.

Late Fee:

A \$25 late fee will be charged for registrations
Postmarked after December 4, 2026.

\$25.00 Late Fee = \$ _____

Total Poetry & Essay Fees:

\$ _____

(No refunds will be issued)

**Please mail the poetry and essay ENTRIES to MACS, Immanuel Baptist Church,
Attn. Stefanie Clark, 2680 E M-21, Corunna, MI 48817**

GUIDELINES
MICHIGAN ASSOCIATION OF CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS
JR. HIGH POETRY AND ESSAY CONTEST
GRADES 7-9

A. Creative Writing: Poetry

1. To enhance the quality of workmanship, students may be given the Poetry topic on the Monday before the Friday testing date. However, no pre-written materials may be brought to the testing session. All work turned in must be completed during the one-hour testing time.
2. Previously written poems will not be allowed.
3. Legibility will be a requirement for evaluation.
4. No reference materials, except for a dictionary and a thesaurus provided by the test proctor, will be allowed.
5. Each student will provide and use a blue or black ballpoint pen.
6. Paper will be provided by the test proctor.
7. Evaluation shall be according to the following criteria:
 - a. 20% Development of Subject/Theme: Subject/Theme is clearly presented.
 - b. 20% Language: Word choice and images contribute to understanding the message or purpose of poem. Proficient use of poetic devices (personification, metaphor/simile, etc.)
 - c. 20% Structure: The usage of form, meter, rhyme and consistent poetic form are easily distinguishable.
 - d. 20% Creativity: Original or unique presentation in poetic form.
 - e. 20% Proofreading/Editing: Skillful use of vocabulary, proper implementation of grammar, proficiency in spelling, and neatness.

B. Creative Writing: Essay

1. To enhance the quality of workmanship, students may be given the topic for Creative Writing on the Monday before the Friday testing date. However, no pre-written materials may be brought to testing session. All work turned in must be completed during the one-hour testing time.
2. No reference materials, except a dictionary and a thesaurus provided by the test proctor, will be allowed.
3. Each student will provide and use a blue or black ballpoint pen.
4. Paper will be provided by the test proctor.
5. Evaluation shall be according to the following criteria:
 - a. 20% Development of Subject/Theme: Presents logical and understandable points related to the topics.
 - b. 20% Unity: Sentences/paragraphs develop the idea stated in topic sentence.
 - c. 20% Coherence: Details are in good order, and relationships between details are clear.
 - d. 20% Creativity: Presents the topic in an interesting and/or unique style.
 - e. 20% Proofreading/Editing: Skillful use of vocabulary, proper implementation of grammar, proficiency in spelling, and neatness of manuscript form.

GUIDELINES
MICHIGAN ASSOCIATION OF CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS
Sr. High Poetry and Essay Contest
Grades 10 - 12

A. Creative Writing: Poetry

1. To enhance the quality of workmanship, students may be given the Poetry topic on the Monday before the Friday testing date. However, no pre-written materials may be brought to the testing session. All work turned in must be completed during the one hour testing time.
2. Previously written poems will not be allowed.
3. Legibility will be a requirement for evaluation.
4. No reference materials, except for a dictionary and a thesaurus provided by the test proctor, will be allowed.
5. Each student will provide and use a blue or black ball-point pen.
6. Paper will be provided by the test proctor.
7. Evaluation shall be according to the following criteria:
 - a. 20% Development of Subject/Theme: Subject/theme is clearly presented.
 - b. 20% Language: Word choice and images contribute to understanding the message or purpose of poem. Proficient use of poetic device (personification, metaphor/simile, etc.)
 - c. 20% Structure: The usage of form, meter, rhyme and consistent poetic form are easily distinguishable.
 - d. 20% Creativity: Original or unique presentation in poetic form.
 - e. 20% Proofreading/Editing: Skillful use of vocabulary, proper implementation of grammar, proficiency in spelling, and neatness.

B. Expository Writing: Essay

1. To enhance the quality of workmanship, students may be given the topic for Creative Writing on the Monday before the Friday testing date. However, no pre-written materials may be brought to the testing session. All work turned in must be completed during the one hour testing time.
2. An essay will be defined as a written expression of the author's ideas:
 - a. Stated in a thesis in the first paragraph.
 - b. Supported and proven in three to five paragraphs in the body, each introduced by topic sentences that relate directly to the topic but each providing a different argument or fact.
 - c. Concluded with a summarizing paragraph which restates the thesis.
3. Essays written in the first person will be disqualified.
4. Legibility will be a requirement for evaluation.
5. No reference materials, except a dictionary and a thesaurus provided by the test proctor, will be allowed.
6. Each student will provide and use a blue or black ball-point pen.
7. Paper will be provided by the test proctor.
8. Evaluation shall be according to the following criteria:
 - a. 20% Development of Subject/Theme: Presents logical and understandable points related to the topic.
 - b. 20% Unity: Sentences/ paragraphs develop the idea stated in topic sentence.
 - c. 20% Coherence: Details are in good order, and relationships between details are clear.
 - d. 20% Creativity: Presents the topic in an interesting and/or unique style.
 - e. 20% Proofreading/Editing: Skillful use of vocabulary, proper implementation of grammar, proficiency in spelling, and neatness of manuscript form.

JUNIOR/SENIOR HIGH CREATIVE WRITING: POETRY

EVALUATION SHEET

Student #: _____

Evaluation shall be according to the following criteria:

Points

1. 20 % Development of subject/theme:

Subject/theme is clearly presented.

Comments:

2. 20% Language:

Word choice and images contribute to understanding the message or purpose of the poem. Writer proficiently uses poetic devices (personification, metaphor/simile, etc.)

Comments:

3. 20% Structure:

Usage of meter, rhyme, and consistent poetic form are easily distinguishable.

Comments:

4. 20% Creativity:

Presentation of poetic form is original or unique.

Comments:

5. 20% Proofreading/editing:

Writer displays skillful use of vocabulary, proper implementation of grammar, proficiency in spelling, and neatness.

Comments:

Total: _____

JUNIOR/SENIOR HIGH CREATIVE WRITING: ESSAY

EVALUATION SHEET

Student #: _____

Evaluation shall be according to the following criteria:

Points:

1. 20% Development of subject/theme:
Writer presents logical and understandable points related to the topic.
Comments: _____
2. 20% Unity:
Sentences/paragraphs develop the idea stated in topic sentence.
Comments: _____
3. 20% Coherence:
Details are in good order, and relationships between details are clear.
Comments: _____
4. 20% Creativity:
Writer presents the topic in an interesting and/or unique style.
Comments: _____
5. 20% Proofreading/editing:
Writer displays skillful use of vocabulary, proper implementation of grammar, proficiency in spelling, and neatness.
Comments: _____

Total: _____

Name: _____

Start Time: _____

School: _____

Finish Time: _____

Date: _____

JUNIOR HIGH CREATIVE WRITING - POETRY

Michigan Association of Christian Schools
Series "B"

Directions:

1. Print your name, school name, and date on the top left-hand corner of this paper. Do not write your name on your written work.
2. Use lined paper provided by your test proctor. Please attach the finished work to this sheet with a paper clip.
3. Writing period is 60 minutes. Mark start and finish times in upper right-hand corner of paper.
4. Please use blue or black ink.
5. No reference materials, except a dictionary and a thesaurus, are permissible.
6. Previously written works are not acceptable.
7. Legibility required for evaluation.
8. Poem may be lyric, sonnet, narrative, etc. You may write this poem in free verse or rhyme and meter.
9. Evaluation shall be according to the following criteria:
 - a. 20% Development of subject/theme: Subject/theme is clearly presented.
 - b. 20% Language: Word choice and images contribute to understanding the message or purpose of poem. Proficient use of poetic device (personification, metaphor/simile, etc.)
 - c. 20% Structure: The usage of meter rhyme and consistent poetic form are easily distinguishable.
 - d. 20% Creativity: Original or unique presentation in poetic form.
 - e. 20% Proofreading/editing: Skillful use of vocabulary, proper implementation of grammar, proficiency in spelling, and neatness.

WRITE A POEM OF ANY LENGTH ON THE FOLLOWING:

Seasons

Name: _____

Start Time: _____

School: _____

Finish Time: _____

Date: _____

JUNIOR HIGH CREATIVE WRITING - ESSAY

Michigan Association of Christian Schools

Series "B"

Directions:

1. Print your name, school name, and date on the top left-hand corner of this paper. Do not write your name on your written work.
2. Use lined paper provided by your test proctor. Please attach finished work to this sheet with a paper clip.
3. Writing period is 60 minutes. Mark start and finish times in upper right-hand corner of this paper.
4. Please use blue or black ink.
5. Three elements must be present: a written expression of the author's ideas:
 - a. stated in a thesis in the first paragraph
 - b. supported and proven in three to five paragraphs
 - c. concluded with a summarizing paragraph which restates the thesis
6. No reference materials, except a dictionary and a thesaurus, are permissible.
7. Previously written works are not acceptable.
8. Legibility required for evaluation.
9. Evaluation shall be according to the following criteria:
 - a. 20% Development of subject/theme: Presents logical and understandable points related to the topic.
 - b. 20% Unity: Sentences/paragraphs develop the idea stated in topic sentence.
 - c. 20% Coherence: Details are in good order, and relationships between details are clear.
 - d. 20% Creativity: Presents the topic in an interesting and/or unique style.
 - e. 20% Proofreading/editing: Skillful use of vocabulary, proper implementation of grammar, proficiency in spelling, and neatness of manuscript form.

WRITE AN ESSAY ON THE FOLLOWING TOPIC:

Traveling with the Family

Name: _____

Start Time: _____

School: _____

Finish Time: _____

Date: _____

SENIOR HIGH CREATIVE WRITING: POETRY

Michigan Association of Christian Schools

Series "B"

Directions:

1. Print your name, school name, and date on the top left-hand corner of this paper. Do not write your name on your written work.
2. Use **college rule lined paper** provided by your test proctor. Please attach the finished work to this sheet with a paper clip.
3. Writing period is 60 minutes. Mark start and finish times in upper right hand corner of this paper.
4. Please use blue or black ink.
5. No reference materials, except a dictionary and a thesaurus, are permissible.
6. Previously written works are not acceptable.
7. Legibility is required for evaluation.
8. Poem may be lyric, sonnet, narrative, etc. You may write this poem in free verse or rhyme and meter.
9. Evaluation shall be according to the following criteria:
 - a. 20% Development of subject/theme: Subject/theme is clearly presented.
 - b. 20% Language: Word choice and images contribute to understanding the message or purpose of poem. Proficient use of poetic device (personification, metaphor/simile, etc.) is present.
 - c. 20% Structure: The usage of meter, rhyme and consistent poetic form are easily distinguishable.
 - d. 20% Creativity: Presentation of poetic form is original or unique.
 - e. 20% Proofreading/editing: Writer skillfully uses vocabulary, proper grammar, proficient spelling, and neatness.

WRITE A POEM OF ANY LENGTH ON THE FOLLOWING:

FRIENDSHIP

Name: _____

Start Time: _____

School: _____

Finish Time: _____

Date: _____

SENIOR HIGH CREATIVE WRITING - ESSAY

Michigan Association of Christian Schools

Series "B"

Directions:

1. Print your name, school name, and date on the top left-hand corner of this paper. Do not write your name on your written work.
2. Use lined paper provided by your test proctor. Please attach finished work to this sheet with a paper clip.
3. Writing period is 60 minutes. Mark start and finish times in upper right-hand corner of this paper.
4. Please use blue or black ink.
5. Three elements must be present: a written expression of the author's ideas:
 - a. stated in a thesis in the first paragraph
 - b. supported and proven in three to five paragraphs
 - c. concluded with a summarizing paragraph which restates the thesis
6. No reference materials, except a dictionary and a thesaurus, are permissible.
7. Previously written works are not acceptable.
8. Legibility required for evaluation.
9. Evaluation shall be according to the following criteria:
 - a. 20% Development of subject/theme: Presents logical and understandable points related to the topic.
 - b. 20% Unity: Sentences/paragraphs develop the idea stated in topic sentence.
 - c. 20% Coherence: Details are in good order, and relationships between details are clear.
 - d. 20% Creativity: Presents the topic in an interesting and/or unique style.
 - e. 20% Proofreading/editing: Skillful use of vocabulary, proper implementation of grammar, proficiency in spelling, and neatness of manuscript form.

WRITE AN ESSAY ON THE FOLLOWING TOPIC:

WHY A CHRISTIAN EDUCATION?

MICHIGAN ASSOCIATION OF CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS
ELEMENTARY ESSAY AND POETRY CONTEST
Grades 4 – 6

Topics for 2026-2027 Contest:

Poetry:	Freedom
Essay:	The Greatest Invention

Guidelines:

1. Entries shall meet these specific length requirements:
Poetry: 75 – 200 words Essay: 100 – 350 words
2. No more than two (2) poems and two (2) essays per grade may be entered in the statewide competition. If desired, each school may hold an in-house contest to determine the best entries. (Please note enclosed copies of the state judging sheets are included for your use in your own contest.)
3. Students should be told the topics at least one week prior to writing so that they may have time to think through what they wish to communicate.
4. Students must submit a handwritten entry that was completed in the school and under school supervision without adult or student assistance. The student should first write a “rough draft” copy, make corrections himself, and write a neat final copy. Entries submitted for state competition must be free of any written comments and corrections.
5. All entries must be completed during a writing period of ninety (90) minutes. Additional time may be given only to re-copy the manuscript neatly.
6. No reference materials except a King James Bible and a dictionary shall be permitted at the time of writing. Research may be done outside of class, but no notes may be used during the writing period.
7. Students must use standard wide rule notebook paper. The final copy must be written in blue or black ink, using only one side of the sheet and leaving a one-inch margin from every edge. Entries may be photocopied for school judging and will be photocopied for state judging.
8. At the top of the first page of the student’s entry must be the following information: Student’s name and grade, school name, city and state, category entered, and number of words. A formal title page is not allowed.
9. The main judging criteria will be the content, originality and communication of the piece. Mechanics, such as spelling, punctuation, paragraph structure, poetical form, neatness, etc., are secondary criteria.
10. Original student entries must be received by **January 8, 2027**. Mail entries to Immanuel Baptist Church, Attn: Stefanie Clark, 2680 E. M-21, Corunna, MI 48817. All participating schools will be notified of the results and winners will be awarded ribbons. Original work will be returned to your school along with the judging sheets so your students may review them.

ELEMENTARY POETRY JUDGING FORM

Name: _____ School: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Grade: _____

I. Originality, content, and communication (60 points):

- A. Does the poem have a creative approach to the topic? (25 points) _____
- B. Is the poem well organized (content)? (20 points) _____
- C. Does the theme or idea tie the poet's verses together? (5 points) _____
- D. Is the reader left with a "finished" feeling? (5 points) _____
- E. Level of work (5 points) _____

Total this section: _____

II. Poetry Mechanics (25 points)

- A. If the poem is a rhyme, is the rhyme scheme correct? If there is no rhyme, are the poetic devices appropriately used? (5 points) _____
- B. Is the meter consistent throughout and appropriate for the subject/mood? If there is no meter, does the poem flow? (5 points) _____
- C. Does the poet have a feeling for sound devices other than rhythm and rhyme (e.g., alliteration, consonance, refrain, etc.) (5 points) _____
- D. Does the poet use imagery (including figures of speech), and is it used effectively? (5 points) _____
- E. Is the versification structure correct? (5 points) _____

Total this section: _____

III. Writing Mechanics (15 points)

- A. Are spelling, capitalization, and punctuation correct? (5 points) _____
- B. Is the poem consistent in tense? (5 points) _____
- C. Is the point of view consistent throughout? (5 points) _____

Total this section: _____

Total points for the poem: _____

Comments:

ELEMENTARY ESSAY JUDGING FORM

Name: _____ School: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Grade: _____

I. Originality and communication (40 points)

A. Does the essay have a creative approach to a topic or story? (30 points)

B. Do vocabulary and word usage enhance the thesis? (5 points)

C. Is the reader left with a "finished" feeling? (5 points)

Total this section:

II. Content (40 points)

A. Is the main idea well developed throughout the essay? (25 points)

B. Is the essay well organized? (10 points)

C. Is the point of view consistent throughout? (5 points)

Total this section:

III. Writing Mechanics (20 points)

A. Are spelling, capitalization, and punctuation correct? (5 points)

B. Is the sentence structure correct? (5 points)

C. Is the paragraphing appropriate and correctly done? (5 points)

D. Is the essay consistent in tense? (5 points)

Total this section:

Total points for the essay:

Comments: