
2021 Creative Arts Competition Creative Writing Entry Packet

****ATTENTION: You must be an enrolled Veteran in the VA for healthcare to participate in this competition****

- This packet is for **CREATIVE WRITING DIVISION** entries only. Art Division entries must submit a different Form.
- It is extremely important that all participants read through the **CREATIVE WRITING DIVISION RULES** on page 5. Entries that do not meet the requirements listed will be **disqualified**.

A **COMPETITION ENTRY FORM** and **SIGNED CONSENT** are **required** to participate. They can be found on PAGE 2 and PAGES 3-4 of this packet.

TIMELINE

Entry Forms and Artwork due: **January 29, 2021**

1st, 2nd, 3rd Place winners notified: **February 8, 2021**

Art Showcase: **February 9, 2021 8am-6pm** 2nd Floor Recreation Hall, GIVA

Multiple Entries

Veterans are permitted to enter up to 3 Creative Writing pieces but cannot enter more than 1 per individual category (see category lists on pages 6-7). A separate entry form is required for each category entered.

ALL CREATIVE WRITING ENTRIES must be submitted **electronically** to: alicia.wicht@va.gov. ****Paper copies can be submitted in addition to electronic copies for display purposes only****

(Ex: A poem written on special paper and framed may be provided for display, but an electronic copy of the poem must be submitted for judging purposes)

GIVA Local Creative Arts Competition

1st, 2nd, and 3rd place winners of the local competition will be notified on Monday, February 8, 2021. All Creative Writing pieces will be available for viewing on **Tuesday February 9, 2021** from 8am – 6pm in the Recreation Hall on the 2nd Floor at the Grand Island VA Hospital. This showcase is open to the public!

National Veteran's Creative Arts Competition

All local First-place winning entries in each Art Category will be submitted to the National Art Division Competition Judging. All gold medal winners from the National Art Division Competition will be invited to participate in the Festival. *Note: VA staff contact persons will be notified via E-mail in late May with the 2021 competition results.

Please return application either in person or via email to:

Alicia Wicht

Whole Health – Building 6

2201 N. Broadwell Ave

Grand Island, NE 68803

Phone: 308.395.3404

Email: alicia.wicht@va.gov

Entry forms and Creative Writing pieces must be submitted by:

January 29, 2021

2021 Creative Writing Division Entry Form

****ALL highlighted sections of this form are required****

**Note: Category descriptions can be found on pages 6-7 of this packet*

Category Number:	
Category Name:	
Title of Piece:	

Word Document File Name – see page 44 (Example: CW-01-MYLIF-jd-649)	
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Individual Entry – For entries submitted by one Veteran.

Veteran Name:	
Veteran E-mail:	
Veteran Address:	
Veteran Phone Number:	

Group Entry – For an entry submitted by a group of Veterans into Category #15 – Special Recognition.

Group Name:	
Number of Veterans in Group:	

First Name	Last Name

First Name	Last Name

Veterans:	Initial
I/we confirm that this piece is written entirely by me/us.	
I/we have read all the rules for the creative writing division.	

VA Staff:	Initial
I confirm that the Veterans entering the competition above meet eligibility criteria as specified on page 5 and are approved to enter the 2021 NVCA Competition as representatives of this VA facility.	
I confirm that the Veterans entering the competition above have signed the necessary consent forms (10-3203 and if necessary, 10-5345) to enter the 2021 NVCA Competition.	

Signature of Veteran(s)

VA Staff Contact Signature

Every Veteran must sign this form to compete in the local and national level of competition.



Department of Veterans Affairs

CONSENT FOR PRODUCTION AND USE OF VERBAL OR WRITTEN STATEMENTS, PHOTOGRAPHS, DIGITAL IMAGES, AND/OR VIDEO OR AUDIO RECORDINGS BY VA

Name of individual whose statement, likeness, or voice is requested:

NOTE: The execution of this form does not authorize production or use of materials except as specified below. The specified material may be produced and used by VA for authorized purposes identified below, such as education of VA personnel, research activities, or promotional efforts. It may also be disclosed outside VA as permitted by law and as noted below. If the material is part of a VA system of records, it may be disclosed outside VA as stated in the "Routine Uses" in the "VA Privacy Act Systems of Records" published in the Federal Register.

The purpose of this form is to document your consent to the Department of Veterans Affairs' (VA) request to obtain, produce, and/or use a verbal or written statement or a photograph, digital image, and/or video or audio recording containing your likeness or voice. By signing this form, you are authorizing the production or use only as specified below.

You are NOT REQUIRED TO CONSENT TO VA's REQUEST to obtain, produce, and/or use your statement, likeness, or voice. Your decision to consent or refuse will not affect your access to any present or future VA benefits for which you are eligible.

You may rescind your consent at any time prior to or during production of a photograph, digital image, or video or audio recording, or before or during your provision of a verbal or written statement. You may rescind your consent after production is complete if the burden on VA of complying with that request is not unreasonable considering the financial and administrative costs and the ease of compliance of the number of parties involved and **the Veteran's VA facility and the Dept. of VA Office of National Veterans Sports Programs & Special Events.**

The photograph, digital image, and/or video or audio recording will be produced while I am (describe the activity or situation) **(To Be Completed by the Department of Veteran Affairs, if applicable)**

A participant in an adaptive sport or creative arts therapy program sponsored by the Veteran's VA facility and the Office of National Veterans Sports Programs and Special Events (NVSP&SE) and the American Legion Auxiliary.

Check at least one of the following (to be completed by VA)

I hereby voluntarily and without compensation authorize Department of Veterans Affairs NVSP&SE and the Veteran's VA facility to produce a photograph, digital image, and/or video or audio recording of me (or of the above named individual if the individual is legally unable to give consent).

I hereby voluntarily and without compensation authorize Department of Veterans Affairs NVSP&SE and the Veteran's VA facility to obtain or use a verbal or written statement from me (or the of the above named individual if the individual is legally unable to give consent).

I consent to allowing VA to record and use a verbal or written statement, or produce and use photographs, digital images, and video or audio recording for the purpose(s) identified below:

This product will be used: (NOTE: At least one of these boxes must be checked as well as a purpose described below) (to be completed by VA)

Internally (stay within VA) Externally (shared outside VA)

Please check the applicable purpose(s) (to be completed by VA)

Promotional Efforts:

Internal Publication (only VA) External publication (publicly available)

Other (Specify): Newspapers, radio stations, television stations, participant profiles, souvenir program booklet and DVD, and other media outlets. In addition, VA may release this information to sponsor organizations of the National Veterans Sports Programs and Special Events in the form of other media products to promote the positive aspects of creative arts therapy.

Research Activities: Study

Education Purposes:

Presentation Conference Publication in a Journal Training

Other (Specify):

VA ONLY Use:

Performance Improvement Quality Improvement Health Care Operations

Other (Specify):

All of the Above

NOTE: Do not sign this form unless one or more of the boxes above has been checked.

I have read and understand the foregoing, and I consent to the use of a verbal or written statement from me, and/or of my likeness and/or voice as specified for the above-described purpose(s). I understand that no royalty, fee, or other compensation of any kind will be made to me by the United States for such use. I understand that consent to obtain, produce, and/or use a verbal or written statement, photograph, digital image, and video or audio recording containing my likeness or voice is voluntary, and my refusal will not adversely affect my access to any present or future VA benefits for which I am eligible. I further understand that I may, at any time, rescind my consent prior to or during production of a photograph, digital image, or video or audio recording. I also understand that I may rescind my consent after production is complete if the burden on VA of complying with that request is not unreasonable considering the financial and administrative costs, the ease of compliance, and the number of parties involved.

Print Veteran Full Name (First and Last Name)	Veteran Signature	Date
<i>Permission Obtained By (TO BE COMPLETED BY VA)</i> Print VA Employee Full Name	Title	Date
<i>Signature of Person Obtaining Consent (TO BE COMPLETED BY VA)</i> Print VA Employee Full Name	VA Employee Signature	Date

IMPORTANT: If VA is providing or releasing any patient health or demographic information with the verbal or written statement, photograph, digital image, or video or audio recording, VA Form 10-5345, Request for and Authorization to Release Medical Records or Health Information, is required prior to the release of such data to any source outside VA.

Creative Writing Division Rules

Entries submitted into the Creative Writing Division will be judged based upon the merit of the original work, creative content, message clarity, use of language, originality of topic or idea, and overall strength.

ALL CREATIVE WRITING ENTRIES must be submitted **electronically** to: alicia.wicht@va.gov.
****Paper copies can be submitted in addition to electronic copies for display purposes only****
(Ex: A poem written on special paper and framed may be provided for display, but an electronic copy of the poem must be submitted for judging purposes)

All entries submitted into the Creative Writing Division must be original compositions written solely by the eligible Veteran who is submitting the entry.



New!

- Each entry must be typed using **12-point font**.
 - Each entry must be submitted as a Microsoft Word document.
 - **Do not** submit PDF attachments.
 - **Do not** submit Word documents that have pictures or graphics in the background. Only the text of the entry will be judged.
 - Follow the rules for the category you are entering.
 - The Veterans name, VA facility, and title of the piece must be included in the Word document.
 - **Word documents need be submitted via email to alicia.wicht@va.gov**
1. If an entry has won a gold medal in the creative writing division at the national level in any category it MAY NOT BE re-submitted into the Creative Writing division in a subsequent year.
 2. Judges reserve the right to move an entry to the appropriate category or disqualify the entry if rules are not followed.
 3. Collections of poems, essays, stories, etc. submitted as one entry will not be allowed.

For more information regarding competition rules and regulations, please visit:

https://www.nebraska.va.gov/locations/Grand_Island.asp

**Please return application either
in person or via email to:**

Alicia Wicht
Whole Health – Building 6
2201 N. Broadwell Ave
Grand Island, NE 68803
Phone: 308.395.3404
Email: alicia.wicht@va.gov

**Entry forms and Creative Writing
pieces must be submitted by:
January 29, 2021**

Creative Writing Categories

***Note: Each entry must be typed in a Word document using 12-point font. Do not include pictures or graphics in the background of the Word documents.**

1. **Poetry – Humorous** - A verse composition of humorous nature, **no longer than 48 lines** in length, written by one eligible Veteran.
2. **Poetry – Inspirational** - Same as #1, but of an inspirational nature.
3. **Poetry – Patriotic** - Same as #1, but relating to American patriotism.
4. **Poetry – Other** - Same as #1, but does not more appropriately meet the definitions of poetry-humorous, inspirational or patriotic categories.
5. **Essay – Humorous** - An essay, **no longer than 850 words**, written in ordinary speech or writing (not poetry) by one eligible Veteran that is **a discussion of a topic from the author’s personal point of view** as influenced by subjective experience and personal reflection, is a non-fiction work, often expository, and humorous in nature. Entries submitted into this category must have an introduction, a statement of viewpoint, supportive points, and a conclusion summary.
6. **Essay – Inspirational** - An essay, **no longer than 850 words**, written in ordinary speech or writing (not poetry) by one eligible Veteran that is **a discussion of a topic from the author’s personal point of view** as influenced by subjective experience and personal reflection, is a non-fiction work, often expository, and of an inspirational nature. Entries submitted into this category must have an introduction, a statement of viewpoint, supportive points, and a conclusion summary.
7. **Essay – Patriotic** - An essay, **no longer than 850 words**, written in ordinary speech or writing (not poetry) by one eligible Veteran that is **a discussion of a topic from the author’s personal point of view** as influenced by subjective experience and personal reflection, is a non-fiction work, often expository, and reflective of American patriotism. Entries submitted into this category must have an introduction, a statement of viewpoint, supportive points, and a conclusion summary.
8. **Essay – Other** - Same as #5, but does not more appropriately meet the definitions of essay-humorous, inspirational or patriotic categories.
9. **Personal Experience – Humorous** - A story or situation of humorous content, **no longer than 850 words**, that is **written by one eligible Veteran in the first person** and conveyed about one’s self.
10. **Personal Experience – Inspirational** - A story or situation of inspirational content, **no longer than 850 words**, that is **written by one eligible Veteran in the first person** and conveyed about one’s self.

11. **Personal Experience – Patriotic** - A story or situation that relates to American patriotism, **no longer than 850 words**, that is **written by one eligible Veteran in the first person** and conveyed about one's self.
12. **Personal Experience – Other** - Same as #9, but does not more appropriately meet the definitions of personal experience-humorous, inspirational or patriotic categories. Could include wartime-related experiences, though stories/situations with wartime-related content may also be suitable for personal experience-humorous, inspirational or patriotic categories.
13. **Short, Short Story** - A short story, **no longer than 1,000 words in length** that is written by one eligible Veteran. The story must have a beginning, middle, and an end. Entries received that contain more than 1,000 words will be disqualified.



New!

14. **Short Script** - Part of a short script for one or more characters written by an eligible Veteran, documenting the movement, actions, expression, and dialogue of the characters. **Entries in this category must be no longer than 850 words in length.**