

To students in grades 8 through 11: You can win a \$1,000 scholarship!

It's time for the 2020 writing scholarship given each year by Ardmore Publishing Company in Atlanta.

The rules are simple. Just send us something you have written since this school year began. It can be an item you wrote for a class or something you write especially for this contest. Send whatever you are most proud of — a short story, a poem, an essay, the first pages of a novel, or even a scholastic work. The only requirement is that it be 100% your work, not something anybody has helped you with or edited for you.

What about length? Make it as long or short as you want. However, if you submit something very short — maybe a poem just a few lines long — you'll do best if you submit several poems or combine the short item with something else, maybe a story. We need enough of a sample to get a good view of how well you write.

Presentation counts!

A point to remember: Ardmore's editors who read your entry don't like things that are hard to read. Nobody wants to look at bad handwriting. And nobody wants to pick up a paper that's torn or dirty or written in pencil. By contrast, a paper that's neatly typed gets a thumbs-up right at the start. And a paper written in ink in your best handwriting gets an even better response.

Spacing makes a difference too.

If you have to read something with the letters and words all cramped up and the lines slammed together like this, your first thought is "Oh no! This is going to take me hours to finish. I don't want to read it!" And if you do read it, you won't like it.

Leave nice wide margins on the sides and at the top and bottom of each page. Skip a line between the paragraphs. And when you finish, hold your paper out and ask yourself if it looks like something you'd want to read.

What about grammar?

It counts. Go over your work and look for incomplete and run-on sentences and for common mistakes such as *alot* for *a lot* or *,* instead of *,* or *alright* for *all right* or *lay* when it should be *lie*. And if you aren't sure about something, look it up!

Our winner will receive a \$1,000 MDS scholarship for next year. Good luck!

How to submit your entry:

Email your writing to Susan Crawford at Ardmore Publishing Company. The address is

emailsusancrawford@gmail.com

Send it in Word or as a PDF. And be sure to include a copy of your signed pledge.

**You must email your entry by Monday, April 13.
The winner will be announced May 1.**

\$1,000 Mount de Sales Scholarship for 2020-2021

Please get this pledge signed and include it with your email.

Deadline:

You must email your entry along with this
signed form to

emailsusancrawford@gmail.com

by **Monday, April 13.**

Pledge:

This writing is my own original work.

I have not received help from anyone, and no one has edited it.

Name _____ Grade _____

Parent's Signature _____ Date _____