

Publication Contest Tips

Read the winning articles from last year (under Student Affiliate > Student Winners) and see what it's like. Have students read the articles in their category (school grade level.)

There are two topics per two grades. (See handbook)

IA (grades 1-2)

IB (grades 1-2)

IIA (grades 3-4)

IIB (grades 3-4)

Etc.

Each topic has a cash prize. (See handbook)

Talk with your students about their topic.

Have them write up some key points.

Have them go back and build up each point.

Have them create an interesting angle. Make it interesting to the reader. (Dialogue is good.) The reader should come away knowing something that they did not know before.

Write for fun learning, not for an encyclopedia.

Include substance and facts from research (books and web sites).

You (teacher) are their editor and creative writing teacher. Students will modify and rewrite several times.

Be careful not to compose the article for 1st – 3rd graders. Just give them ideas and filter out factual errors.

It will take time, several weeks, so START EARLY - summer camp or September.

Have a local contest first. November is good.

Have the local judge give lots of comments.

Make the changes suggested by the judge before submitting to state.

One entry per student.

Entries will be judged based on their content, not their layout presentation. So...

No pictures or fancy formatting. (Rare bold print.) Only 12 point Times New Roman font for every single word on the page, even the title. (See handbook)

Two references are required, at least. Use different root websites. (See handbook)

A discography is allowed but not required.

There is a minimum and maximum word limit. It is different for each grade level (category). You must stay within those limits! Count the words in the title and body, not the references or discography. (See handbook)

Enrich your students. Start small. You can do it!