2016 GUIDELINES
OTERO ARTS FESTIVAL
CREATIVE WRITING CONTEST
GRADES 7-12

1) Competition is in four categories: Essay, Short Story, Poetry (7-12 grades) and Creative Book (9-12 Grades only). A student may enter more than one category, but no student will be allowed to have two or more entries in the same category, i.e., two poems or two essays. Class assignments on the same topic handicap the student and are not encouraged for the festival. While skill in writing itself is to be prized, subject selection and limitation are a vital, creative part of the writing process.

2) Each teacher should select the four best examples in any or all of the categories (for a maximum of twelve entries per teacher per class). We rely on teachers to assure the originality of each writing.

3) TWO COPIES of each entry must be submitted. Both copies must have the writing category typed in the upper right-hand corner, and one copy should include: a) student’s name, b) grade, and c) school/teacher’s name. The second copy will be coded when it reaches campus to help insure impartiality. ENTRIES SUBMITTED WILL NOT BE RETURNED; THEREFORE, TEACHERS SHOULD PLAN TO MAKE COPIES FOR THEMSELVES OR THE STUDENT.

4) An essay may be on any topic. Please limit the essay to no more than 500 words. YOU MUST INCLUDE A TITLE.

5) A short story may be on any topic and should demonstrate a strong sense of narration, description, and character development. These are NOT to be autobiographical in nature. Please limit short stories to 1,000 words. YOU MUST INCLUDE A TITLE.

6) Poetry may be of any style, may be submitted in an artistic visual format, and must be titled. Please limit poems to no more than 30 lines. Patterning a poem directly on another poet’s style or format may be good practice, but an individual approach is always prized.

7) All entries are due by 5:00 p.m. FRIDAY, MARCH 4, 2016. Judges will determine overall winners. Winners will be recognized on THURSDAY, APRIL 7th at 7:00 p.m. during the awards ceremony. Teachers or students may pick writing up immediately following the awards.

8) In the Senior Portfolio competition, the senior student must exhibit talent in the Essay, Short Story, and Poetry categories. Only one entry per category is allowed; but, seniors can now include writing completed during any of their high school years. For example, a senior has the choice to enter a poem and essay completed during the sophomore year, and a short story completed during the senior year. They can choose any combination of the three. Senior Portfolio entries are limited to this group and do not compete at large.

9) Please mail entries to the OAF clearing labeling them “Middle School”, “High School” or “Senior Portfolios” to indicate which envelope contains the different categories of entries. To Otero Arts Festival Creative Writing Contest,
Display Copy of Essay Format

Title
Body of essay: written in a minimum of 12 font size and double spaced. May be done on colored or decorative paper 8 ½” x 11”. DO NOT USE A SEPARATE COVER SHEET. Label pages numerically if essay consists of 2 or more pages.

Judge’s Copy of Essay Format

Title
Body of essay: written in minimum of 12 font size and double spaced on plain white paper 8 ½” x 11”. DO NOT USE A SEPARATE COVER SHEET. Label pages numerically if essay consists of 2 or more pages.

Display Copy of Poetry Format

Title
Body of Poem written in minimum 12 font size
May be done on colored or decorative paper 8 ½” x 11”

Judge’s Copy of Poetry Format

Title
Body of Poem written in minimum 12 font size
Must be on plain white paper 8 ½” x 11”

Display Copy of Short Story

Title
Body of short story: written in minimum 12 font size and double spaced. May be done on colored or decorative paper 8 ½” x 11”. DO NOT USE A SEPARATE COVER SHEET. Label pages numerically if short story consists of 2 or more pages.

Judge’s Copy of Short Story

Title
Body of short story: written in minimum 12 font size and double spaced on plain white paper 8 ½” x 11”. DO NOT USE A SEPARATE COVER SHEET. Label pages numerically if short story consists of 2 or more pages.

Humanities Center Room 105, 1802 Colorado Avenue, La Junta, CO 81050