



## GENERAL COMPETITION INFORMATION

*Failure to follow the stated guidelines could result in disqualification of student competing.*

*This does not register you for the National Competitions. Please log in through the EdRising Membership Portal to complete application.*

All students wishing to compete at the Educators Rising National Conference must complete 3 required steps:

1. **Be an Active level paid national member** of Educators Rising for the current school year. State level membership must be paid, if applicable. To join as a National Active level member, [click here](#) to create your account and then complete the online application and purchase process.
2. **Sign up to compete** in the national competitions and submit all required materials by the stated deadline on the [National Competition page](#) located in the Student Resources section in the EdRising Membership Portal. **This is NOT done automatically if you competed at a state or regional conference.**
3. **Register to attend** the Educators Rising National Conference.

### GENERAL RULES AND REGULATIONS

**NOTE: General rules and regulations apply to all competitive events and are in addition to each event's specific guidelines.**

#### Eligibility

- Students must be a paid Active-level student member of Educators Rising no later than **February 1st** of the year in which they are competing.
- Students may enter up to a total of two events. This can be either two individual events, two team events, or one individual and one team event.
- Teacher leaders may enter up to two students per school in each individual event per division and one team for team events per division.
  - All team events must have at least two students (and no more than four) per school to qualify.
  - For teams consisting of students of varying grade levels, the team will be placed in the division for the grade level of the most senior member.
- If a competitor is from a state that holds state competitions, they must first qualify in that given event at their state conference before competing in that event at the Educators Rising National Conference. Contact your state/regional coordinator to see if your state offers competitions. Visit our [state program page](#) on the Educators Rising national website to contact your state/regional coordinator.

- For states that offer state-level competitions, the top ten places in each competition for each division offered by the state will be eligible to compete at the Educators Rising National Conference; no other entrants from states that offer the competition at the state level will be eligible for those state-level-offered competitions.
- For states that do not offer state-level competitions, students may register to compete in those events at the Educators Rising National Conference. This applies to all Educators Rising national competitions.
  - For example, if you want to compete in Impromptu Speaking but place eleventh or lower in your state-level Impromptu Speaking competition or don't compete in the state level competitions at all — you unfortunately can't compete in Impromptu Speaking at the Educators Rising National Conference this year. If you live in a state that didn't hold an Impromptu Speaking state-level competition, you may register to compete in that event at the Educators Rising National Conference.

#### Competition Entries

- All submitted materials must reflect original work from the 2021-2022 school year. Material that may have been created or submitted in previous years is ineligible.

# GENERAL COMPETITION INFORMATION CONT.

- In order to be scheduled to compete in a national competition, all competitor applications, national dues and required materials must be submitted by the deadline stated on the [National Competitions page](#) in the Student Resources Section of the EdRising Membership Portal.
  - Each competition guideline will identify what materials are required for submission prior to the competition. Failure to submit required materials by the submission deadline will result in disqualification.
  - ***Students who have won state-level competitions must also submit their entries on the national website by the deadline to compete at the national conference. Your state does not do this for you.***
- For entries in national competitions, competitors must submit or bring to the event all required materials described in the national competition guidelines. Any materials or forms submitted at previous state or local presentations need to be resubmitted for the national competition in order to count in national competitions.
- All video files that are submitted in advance must be uploaded to either YouTube or Vimeo and be linked on the application form. Videos will not be accepted by mail. **All competitors should also bring a copy of the video file on a USB drive to the conference.** Educators Rising competitions comply with FERPA regarding student privacy and video security. Competitors are responsible for ensuring that their competition videos comply with local and state requirements regarding student privacy.
- Except when explicitly specified, the internet may not be used during a competition presentation at the Educators Rising National Conference. All relevant files and resources should be brought to the competition site on a USB drive. All Prezi files should be downloaded to the USB drive. Internet access may not be available during the competition. Students should bring their own pointing device, if needed.
- High School Junior Varsity level — Grades 9, 10
- High School Varsity level — Grades 11, 12
- Collegiate level – Undergraduates only
- Teams consisting of students from varying grade levels will be placed in the division for the grade level of the most senior member.
- If there are not at least three competitors registered for a competition in a division, the competitors will be moved to the next highest division. The collegiate division will compete in their own division regardless of the number of competitors.
- Certificates will be awarded to the top 10 entries in each division. Awards will be presented to the top three entries in each division.

## Conference Registration, Attendance, and Participation in Events

- **All competitors must attend the Educators Rising National Conference.** Conference dates and location will be posted on the Educators Rising website and Membership Portal.
- Competitors must report to their assigned areas on time. **Failure to report at their scheduled time can result in disqualification.** Competition schedules will be posted in the [Educators Rising Membership Portal](#) one month prior to the conference. Be sure to check these schedules prior to your arrival.
- Competitors are expected to dress in business-casual attire. **(See the section Competition Dress Code for details on what is acceptable.)** Points will be deducted from the entrant's score for failure to follow the stated dress code.
- Spectators may not coach or offer any verbal or nonverbal assistance to a contestant during that contestant's assigned time slot with the judges. A breach of this guideline may result in disqualification of the contestant.
- Teacher Leaders, Chaperones, and Parents are prohibited from approaching judges to discuss scoring or feedback. All questions or concerns should be brought to the attention of a national office staff member.

## Competition Dress Code

All competitors are expected to dress in business-casual attire when competing. Refer to the guidelines below for a detailed explanation of what is and is not permissible as "business casual."

## LEVELS OF COMPETITION

- The breakdown of grades noted below is used to designate levels for competition entries. Not all competitions are open to all divisions.
  - Middle School level — Grades 7, 8

# GENERAL COMPETITION INFORMATION CONT.

- **Slacks, Pants, and Suit Pants**  
Slacks that are similar to Dockers and other makers of cotton or synthetic material pants, wool pants, flannel pants, dressy capris, and nice-looking dress synthetic pants are acceptable. Inappropriate slacks or pants include jeans, sweatpants, exercise pants, Bermuda shorts, short shorts, shorts, bib overalls, leggings, and any spandex or other form-fitting pants such as those in which people wear for biking.
- **Skirts, Dresses, and Skirted Suits**  
Casual dresses and skirts, and skirts that are split at or below the knee are acceptable. Dress and skirt length should be at a length at which you can sit comfortably in public. Mini-skirts, skorts, sun dresses, beach dresses, and spaghetti-strap dresses are inappropriate.
- **Shirts, Tops, Blouses, and Jackets**  
Casual shirts, dress shirts, sweaters, tops, and polo shirts are acceptable. Educators Rising polo shirts are encouraged. Inappropriate attire includes tank tops; midriff tops; shirts with potentially offensive words, terms, logos, pictures, cartoons, or slogans; halter-tops; tops with bare shoulders; sweatshirts, and t-shirts unless worn under another blouse, shirt, jacket, or dress.
- **Shoes and Footwear**  
Conservative athletic or walking shoes, loafers, clogs, sneakers, boots, flats, dress heels, and leather deck-type shoes are acceptable. Flashy athletic shoes, thongs, flip-flops, and slippers are not acceptable.
- **Hats and Head Covering**  
Hats are not appropriate inside of the building. Head covers that are required for religious purposes or to honor cultural tradition are allowed.

## Citations, References, and Copyrighted Material

- All ideas, text, images, and sound from other sources used for the competition must be cited in competition submissions.
- Competitors are strongly discouraged from using copyrighted material in their competitive entries. If copyrighted material is used, written permissions must be obtained for the rights to display and present

media-related materials at the Educators Rising National Conference and to post media-related materials on the Educators Rising website. All permissions obtained to use copyrighted material must be included with entry submission. (Note: This requirement applies to music used in videos, graphics taken from the internet, and other media-related materials. It does not apply to artifacts collected for a project.)

- Plagiarism is strictly prohibited in all documents submitted. Judges can disqualify students competing if it is determined that any part of their documents have been plagiarized.

## Electronic Devices

- Recording devices are not allowed in competitive events.
- Special approval from the event coordinator and the competitor is required before any event may be recorded.
- All electronic devices—including but not limited to, cell phones, iPads/tablets, electronic readers, smart watches, etc.—must be turned off unless otherwise noted in specific event regulations.
- No electronic communication devices of any kind are permitted during competition.

## Student Responsibilities for Competitions

- Students and advisors must routinely check the EdRising Membership Portal for updated information about general rules and [competitive event guidelines](#)
- Students who participate in any Educators Rising competitive event are responsible for knowing all updates, changes, and clarifications related to that event.
- Entrants grant Educators Rising the right to use and publish the submission in print, online, or in any media without compensation.
- Entrants grant Educators Rising the right to post photos of students for promotional purposes on the Educators Rising website, Membership Portal, and social media sites.



ENTRIES WILL BE SUBMITTED THROUGH THE EDRISING MEMBERSHIP PORTAL ([members.pdkintl.org](http://members.pdkintl.org)) IN THE STUDENT RESOURCES SECTION.

HAVE ANY QUESTIONS? CALL 800-766-1156 OR EMAIL [INFO@EDUCATORSRISING.ORG](mailto:INFO@EDUCATORSRISING.ORG).

# CHECKLIST FOR APPLYING FOR EDUCATORS RISING NATIONAL COMPETITIONS

## Ready to compete at Nationals?

Here is a checklist to help you get prepared, registered, and on the official schedule for nationals!

SUBMISSIONS OPEN: **FEBRUARY 1, 2022 8:00 A.M. EASTERN TIME**  
DEADLINE TO APPLY FOR ON-SITE SCHEDULING: **APRIL 4, 2022 5:00 P.M. EASTERN TIME**

- Review the full national competition guidelines and rubric.** Check the Resources Section in the EdRising Membership Portal. Some processes may be different from your state/regional conference.
- It is recommended that students use an email address where they can receive Educators Rising email communication. Confirmations and reminder emails will be sent to the email listed on the competition application. Please note, some school emails do not allow for Educators Rising emails to be received.
- Step one:** [Go to the National Competition page in the EdRising Membership Portal.](#) **Step two:** Click on the title of competition that for which you are signing up to compete. **Step three:** Read the guidelines and rubrics. **Step four:** Click Apply, which will take you to the national competition online application platform. All competitors must submit the online competition application even if no additional documents need to be submitted. *(This does not register you for the National Conference only the competitions, you will still need to register for the conference separately.)*
- Complete the online application, upload any required documents/videos, and submit.** Depending on your competition, some of these items are judged **before** the conference so make sure they are in their final form. Recommendation: Have someone proofread your documents prior to submitting them. Many points have been lost in past years by competitors who had many spellings, grammar, and mechanics errors in their work.

*You must complete and submit the online application by the deadline stated on the [National Competitions page](#) in the [Student Resources](#) section of the EdRising Membership Portal to be scheduled to compete at the Educators Rising National Conference. **Participating at a state or regional conference does not provide a pass on completing this process.***

***For competitions that have multiple students participating only one application should be submitted and all students need to be listed as team members in all places indicated on the application form.***
- Print and save your confirmation email.** You will need this information when you register for the conference.
- Register to attend the Educators Rising National Conference.** All national conference information, including how to register, can be found on the [Educators Rising National website](#).
- Find out when you are scheduled to compete on-site.** [Competition schedules](#) will be posted in the EdRising Membership Portal one month prior to the conference. After this date, you can log in and go to the Resources section to find the posted schedules.
- Practice, practice, practice!** The best way to prepare for your on-site competition is to practice in front of your peers. Recommendation: Reread the National Competition Guidelines and Rubric for your competition.
- See you at Nationals!** The top 10 for each competition and the top 3 scores for each contest will be announced at the National Conference Awards Celebration on the final day of the conference. Don't miss your chance to be recognized! Be sure that when you plan your transportation for the conference that you can attend this final celebration.



## CHILDREN'S LITERATURE COMPETITION – HIGHER ED

**COMPETITION TYPE:** Individual (may have additional co-author or illustrator) — Closed to spectators

**ELIGIBILITY LEVELS:** Collegiate

**EDUCATORS RISING STANDARDS:**

- Standard II: Learning About Students
- Standard IV: Engaging in Responsive Planning
- Standard VII: Engaging in Reflective Practice

### Contest Purpose

In his 2012 commencement address to University of the Arts students in Philadelphia, world famous author and storyteller Neil Gaiman said:

*“Life is sometimes hard. Things go wrong, in life and in love and in business and in friendship and in health and in all the other ways that life can go wrong. And when things get tough, this is what you should do: Make good art.*

*I’m serious. Husband runs off with a politician? Make good art. Leg crushed and then eaten by mutated boa constrictor? Make good art. IRS on your trail? Make good art. Cat exploded? Make good art. Somebody on the Internet thinks what you do is stupid or evil or it’s all been done before? Make good art. Probably things will work out somehow, and eventually time will take the sting away, but that doesn’t matter. Do what only you do best. Make good art. Make it on the good days too.”*

Educators Rising students: it’s time to make and share some good art. This is your opportunity to summon your storytelling powers and create original children’s literature. Great literature can be entertaining, educational, inspiring, or illuminating, and while it may be fictional, it speaks to inner truths. Children’s book authors — like educators — help young people to understand these inner truths and to make sense of the world. This competition offers Educators Rising Collegiate students the opportunity to try out that identity as an author and an educator.

### General Information

The book may be written and illustrated by one individual (the author/illustrator) or two individuals (an author and an illustrator). The one or two Educators Rising Collegiate student members participating in this competition must write all words and create all images themselves for their submission. No artist assistance or use of images from the web or any other third-party is permissible. The participant’s original book will target an audience that could be as young as pre-K (age 4) up to as old as third grade (age 9).

## Competition Guidelines

### BOOK GUIDELINES

- A. Write a short story in a “book” format in English. The story can be about anything but should reinforce either academic or social/emotional values appropriate for public school.
- B. A signed “Statement of Originality” must be completed and submitted with the book.
- C. The book should be written for a target audience that could be as young as pre-K (age 4) up to as old as third grade (age 9).
- D. The book includes a front and back cover, a title/credit page, and no more than 32 pages. (32 pages front only or 16 pages front/back excluding title/credit page).
- E. The title page should include the title of the story, appropriate age audience, author, illustrator (if different from author), teacher leader’s name, school, contact information: email and high school address.
- F. Maximum book size is 14” X 22” and should be bound using a durable user-friendly method of binding. (Commercially produced bound books are allowed for binding purposes only. Use of stock images or templates is prohibited.)
- G. Text or graphics may be either illustrated by hand or computer generated, but the student participants are responsible for composing or creating all text and graphics themselves. No artist assistance or use of images from the web or any other third-party is permissible. Illustrations should be colorful, and art should amplify the impact of the reader’s experience with the story. Neatness counts.
- H. A pdf copy of the book and statement of originality will be required to be uploaded during the application process.

### Judging and scoring

1. The judges’ decisions are final.
2. Scoring is based on the Children’s Literature - Higher Ed Competition rubric.

### PRESENTATION GUIDELINES

- A. The author and illustrator will bring a copy of their book and Statement of Originality to the competition to present and read to the judges.
- B. Acceptable presentation length, including the story introduction will be between five and 10 minutes. Presenters exceeding 10 minutes or under five minutes will be deducted one point for going over 10 minutes or under five minutes and one additional point for every additional 1 minute over or under the time limit.
- C. The author and illustrator will introduce and read the book to the judges.
- D. A timekeeper will hold up timecards as a warning at four minutes and again at nine minutes. The presentation will be stopped at 12 minutes.
- E. After the presentation, judges will have time to ask questions and finish scoring sheets. Judges will review the book and score. Once judges have completed scoring, they will return the book to the participant.
- F. Presenters should wear conference-appropriate clothing or dress in character costumes relevant to the book. No additional props can be used during the presentation.



**EDUCATORS  
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## **CHILDREN'S LITERATURE COMPETITION - HIGHER ED**

### **STATEMENT OF ORIGINALITY**

I attest that my submission for the 2022 Educators Rising National Competition for Children's Literature – Higher Ed reflects solely my original, creative efforts (and those of the other entrant if applicable). No aspect of this submission is plagiarized or infringes on the intellectual property or copyright held by anyone other than the entrant(s). I have not used any web images or third-party artist assistance to create the illustrations for this book.

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Entrant(s) signature(s)

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Entrant(s) printed name(s)

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Printed book title

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Date

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School name

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School city/state



# EDUCATORS RISING

## CHILDREN’S LITERATURE COMPETITION – HIGHER ED

LEVEL (COLLEGIATE)

### DETAILED SCORING RUBRIC

Judges should use this rubric as a guide to assigning points on the Feedback & Tally Sheet.

#### Literary Content

Points Available	20-16 Accomplished	15-11 Commendable	10-6 Developing	5-1 Needs Improvement
Story	<p>An imaginative narrative for children told clearly and engagingly.</p> <p>Meaningful and original treatment of a theme.</p> <p>Contains a well-earned and satisfying ending.</p> <p>Reflects professional caliber children’s literature.</p>	<p>An appealing narrative for children told fairly well but could have increased clarity and impact with minor tweaks in the storytelling.</p> <p>Generally successful treatment of a theme.</p> <p>Contains a generally successful ending.</p> <p>Reflects commendable student-level work.</p>	<p>The plot may lack focus or development at times.</p> <p>Theme may be unclear or not fully developed.</p> <p>Ending may not fully engage or satisfy the audience.</p> <p>Reflects developing student-level work.</p>	<p>Plot may be confusing or lack clarity.</p> <p>Story may reflect stereotypes or biases not appropriate for mainstream children’s literature.</p>
Illustrations/ Visuals	<p>Vivid images contribute significantly to the meaning of the text.</p> <p>Illustrations reflect professional caliber children’s literature through precision, imagination, and overall quality.</p>	<p>Vivid images contribute commendably to the meaning of the text.</p> <p>Illustrations reflect commendable student-level precision, imagination, and overall quality.</p>	<p>Images contribute inconsistently to the meaning of the text.</p> <p>The illustrations’ connection to the story may be confusing at times or reflect inconsistent quality.</p>	<p>Images offer minimal connection or contribution to the meaning of the story.</p> <p>Images may be distracting, or reflect minimal precision, imagination, or overall quality.</p>



## Live Reading Presentation

Points Available	10–9 Accomplished	8–6 Commendable	5–3 Developing	2–1 Needs Improvement
Vocal Delivery	Clarity of voice, pacing, and modulation of tone are expertly crafted to deliver to the listener maximum impact, given the content of the story.	Clarity of voice, pacing, and modulation of tone are strong.  The listener is able to understand what the reader is conveying.	Clarity of voice, pacing, and modulation of tone are straightforward.  The listener is able to understand, but the story's impact would be increased with a more dynamic vocal delivery.	Clarity of voice, pacing, and modulation of tone are inconsistent or needing improvement throughout the reading of the story.  At times, the vocal delivery distracts from the content of the story and diminishes its potential impact.
Presence	The contestants' sustained eye contact, effective posture, and professional demeanor expertly complement the content of the literature to deliver maximum possible impact to the listener.  All team members, whether speaking or not, reinforce the intended impact of the presentation at all times.	The contestants' mostly sustained eye contact, positive posture, and pleasant demeanor complement the content of the presentation quite well.  One or both of the presenters may distractingly appear to slip in and out of professional character at moments during the session.	The contestants' inconsistent eye contact, posture, and demeanor reflect a straightforward recital of the material.  The speaker(s) could do more to fully capitalize on the added impact possible with a focused, sustained presence.	The contestants display effort but eye contact, posture, and demeanor from multiple team members could benefit from more practice and coaching so that the speakers' presence consistently complements the content.
Q&A	The contestants' responses demonstrated consistent thoughtfulness and professional-caliber insight, rooted in reflexivity about the book.	The contestants' responses demonstrated thoughtfulness and reflected successful attempts to address most of the material posed to him/her.	The contestants' responses reflected a broad spectrum of levels of quality from answer to answer.	The contestants' responses may reflect evident effort and passion, but are inconsistent in the depth, accuracy, understanding, or insight offered in responses.

## Text Mechanics

Points Available	5	3	0
Text Mechanics	Mechanics — including grammar, spelling, punctuation, capitalization, etc. — are flawlessly appropriate for this work of children's literature. (Well-used colloquialisms are permitted and encouraged where appropriate.)	Mechanics — including grammar, spelling, punctuation, capitalization, etc. — contain one or two errors.	Mechanics — including grammar, spelling, punctuation, capitalization, etc. — contain more than two errors.

## Guideline Adherence

Points Available	2	0
Statement of Originality	Submitted	Not Submitted
Age Appropriate	Story could be appropriate for an audience somewhere in the age range of 4–9.	Story could not be appropriate for an audience somewhere in the age range of 4–9.
Title Page	The title page includes the title of the story, appropriate age audience, author, illustrator (if different from author), teacher leader’s name, school, contact information: email and high school address.	The title page does not include the title of the story, appropriate age audience, author, illustrator (if different from author), teacher leader’s name, school, contact information: email and high school address.
Book’s Physical Size	Book is bound, and size is less than or equal to 14” x 22”	Book is not bound and/or size is greater than 14” x 22”
Page Limit	Book is no more than 32 pages front only or 16 pages front/back excluding title/ credit page.	Book exceeds 32 pages front only or 16 pages front/back excluding title/credit page.

## Time of Presentation

Points Available	5	4	3	0
Length of live reading presentation	Presentation is between five and 10 minutes.	Presentation is between four and five minutes or 10 and 11 minutes.	Presentation is between three and four minutes or 11 and 12 minutes.	Presentation is shorter than three minutes or had to be stopped at 12 minutes.

## Overall Impact

Points Available	20–16 Accomplished	15–11 Commendable	10–6 Developing	5–1 Needs Improvement
Overall Impact	<p>The book captivates and inspires the reader, and is an excellent, professional-caliber representation of children’s literature.</p> <p>The concept, execution, and presentation are professional-caliber.</p>	<p>The book is a commendable, student-level representation of children’s literature.</p> <p>The concept, execution, and presentation represent commendable, student-level quality though not quite professional-caliber.</p>	<p>The book reflects a developing representation of children’s literature. Aspects of the concept, execution, and presentation are acceptable, if basic. The guidelines are followed, though multiple aspects of the book’s concept, execution, and presentation may distract the audience from intended impact.</p>	<p>The book reflects emerging skills in crafting and presenting original children’s literature.</p> <p>The book may reflect a partial or incomplete understanding of the full task assigned.</p>



# CHILDREN’S LITERATURE COMPETITION – HIGHER ED

LEVEL (COLLEGIATE)

Author(s) Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Illustrator(s) Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Contestants’ School, City, State: \_\_\_\_\_

- Judges will use the Detailed Scoring Rubric as their guide to score students’ competition entries.
- Points and feedback will be emailed to the student competitors no later than two weeks after the conference.

## Literary Content

	Accomplished	Commendable	Developing	Needs Improvement	Score
Story	20-16	15-11	10-6	5-1	
Illustrations/Visuals	20-16	15-11	10-6	5-1	

## Live Reading Presentation

	Accomplished	Commendable	Developing	Needs Improvement	Score
Vocal Delivery	10-9	8-6	5-3	2-1	
Presence	10-9	8-6	5-3	2-1	
Q&A	10-9	8-6	5-3	2-1	

## Text Mechanics

	Flawless	One to two errors	More than two errors	Score
Text Mechanics	5	3	0	

## Guideline Adherence

	Adheres	Does not adhere	Score
Statement of Originality	2	0	
Age Appropriate	2	0	
Title Page	2	0	
Book’s Physical Size	2	0	
Page Limit	2	0	

# CHILDREN'S LITERATURE COMPETITION - HIGHER ED

LEVEL (COLLEGIATE)

## Time of Presentation

	5-10 minutes	4-5 minutes or 10-11 minutes	3-4 minutes or 11-12 minutes	Less than 3 minutes or over 12 minutes	Score
Length of live reading presentation	5	4	3	0	

## Overall Impact

	Accomplished	Commendable	Developing	Needs Improvement	Score
Overall Impact	20-16	15-11	10-6	5-1	

**SCORE \_\_\_\_\_/110**
**FEEDBACK FOR STUDENTS:** Write two or more sentences.
