

ASLHS Eric "Malz" Malzkuhn ASL Literature Competition

Category: Music Videos



Welcome! The National American Sign Language Honor Society (ASLHS) is pleased to announce the 2022 ASL Literature Competition. The following instructions and forms provide the necessary information to participate in the competition. To participate, students must attend a school with a current ASLHS chapter on campus where the teacher is in good standing with ASLTA. The Literature theme this year will be **"Music Videos."**

For the Teacher:

1. Membership

For your students to participate in this competition, your school must belong to the American Sign Language Honor Society (ASLHS) and sponsor an ASLHS chapter on campus. Dues for the 2021-2022 academic year must be current for your students to compete. Additionally you or another teacher at your school site must be a member of the American Sign Language Teachers Association (ASLTA) with membership valid for the current 2021-2022 dues cycle.

If no ASLHS chapter exists on your campus, submit application forms and dues with the ASLHS Literature Competition entries.

Competition entries submitted by students not represented by an official ASLHS chapter are automatically disqualified and no refund will be given.

If you are including ASLHS membership along with entries into the ASLHS Literature competition, you must do the following:

- Include ASLHS & ASLTA membership forms;
- Include a separate check for ASLHS & ASLTA membership dues (if needed).
- Remember all payment fees must be mailed to the ASLTA Treasurer at

ASLTA Treasurer
ASL Literature Competition
PO Box 64801
Rochester, NY 14624

Please consider joining ASLHS before submitting entries to the competition! All information and forms are available at <http://www.aslhonorsociety.org>.

2. Time Frame

Submissions will be accepted beginning January 1, 2022 - March 25, 2022 and all entries are due by **March 25, 2022**. Late entries will be disqualified.

3. Competition Categories

The contest is open to students regularly enrolled in secondary school and post-secondary language courses. Students at any level of ASL instruction are welcome to submit entries in one or both categories. The “classes” are based on student experience, not age.

Students may submit entries in the following category: Original

Category - Original Music videos

Students will perform an original song:

Any level of ASL student

Category - Original Music Video

CLASS A - ASL Jr

Class B - BEGINNER (ASL 1's & 2's)

CLASS C - INTERMEDIATE (ASL 3's and above)

CLASS D - NATIVE SIGNERS

4. Competition Classes

The following defines the classes of competition:

CLASS A- ASL Jr. (middle school Students)

Class B - BEGINNER: Students of ASL Level 1 and 2, CODAs (children of deaf adults) who are not fluent or Deaf students who are not fluent in ASL.

CLASS C - INTERMEDIATE: Students of ASL level 3 and above, CODAs who have emerging ASL skills and Deaf students who have emerging skills as well as CODAs and Deaf with proficient skills.

Class D - Native Signers: who are CODAs, residential school students, and Deaf students may enter their work into this category.

Students may compete in a higher class (Students from Class A may compete in Class B), but may not compete in a lower class (Students from Class B may not compete in Class A). A student who wishes to compete, but who is not currently enrolled in an ASL class, may compete at the level most recently completed. Teachers should make a careful distinction among Classes A and B categories. Students may be disqualified if, in the opinion of the judges, they are in the wrong level or class.

5. Registration Fees

Each School must send a \$25 entry fee. This fee covers all students entering from the school.

6. Payment

Payment for entries can be in check form, made payable to the *American Sign Language Honor Society*. To pay by credit card, you can use this link (<https://www.aslta.org/aslhs-competitions/>). You must be logged into your ASLTA account to use this link.

Entry fees are non-refundable under any circumstances.

All payment fees for the competition, ASLHS chapter dues, and ASLTA membership dues are sent to the following:

ASLTA Treasurer

P.O. Box 64801

Rochester, NY 14624

NOTE: In the event a check is returned due to insufficient funds, the ASL Honor Society will turn over the debt to a personal debt collection agency in addition to placing the chapter on probation. If a chapter is on probation, then students are not allowed to participate in ASLHS- sponsored events (including literature competitions and the ASL scholarship), teachers cannot apply for mini-grants, and graduation materials will not be delivered. In addition, any bank fees incurred due to a bounced check will be added to the total amount due.

7. Submission Format

PLEASE READ CAREFULLY: Email entries should be sent to aslhs.competitions2@aslta.org. Please DO NOT send individual student entries in separate emails. All entries should be placed in a Google Folder titled by your school name, competition title, and year. **Don't forget to change sharing permissions of the folder and all video entries to anyone can view.** All entries must be submitted in the form of a **YouTube link**. Other formats will not be accepted for judging purposes. **Students can place their video link on their application form.**

Example of the Google folder: **Sage Creek High School - Literature Competition - 2022**

Student entries should be placed within the Google Folder and appropriately titled (which pieces of literature).

Attach the student video as a **YouTube link ONLY**. Make sure the file name looks like this:

Last name, First name - school name – Title of Work - Class

Examples: Scott, Monica – Vista High School – Animorphs - Class A

Travers, Jeff – BYU University – Disney Pixar Characters - Class B

Each student's folder must contain a completed registration, release form, and application by going to [this link](#), making a copy of the document, and completing all fields. Make a copy for each entry and place the document in the folder with the student's **YouTube video link**. **YouTube links must be "UNLISTED" so they are not viewable to the public and the judges can see them.** Application forms do not need to be turned into a PDF.

9. Prizes & Certificates

- Winners will be decided by a renowned Deaf performer **ROSA LEE TIMM**
- All participants will receive a certificate of participation
- All classes will receive a certificate of participation
- Prizes for both categories are as follows:
 - First place: \$100.00
 - Second place: \$75.00
 - Third place: \$50.00

10. Announcement of Winners

Winners will be announced **April 30, 2022** on the ASL Honor Society website. If your student wins in any category, you will be informed prior to the announcement.

11. Winning Entries

Winning entries will be posted on the ASL Honor Society's YouTube page. **It is essential that any student under 18 years of age have a parent or guardian's permission to have his/her child's entry posted.** This information appears on the student's entry form.

General Competition Guidelines

1. An introduction signed by the student must be included before signing the literature translation. Wait 2-3 seconds after the end of the introduction before beginning. The signed introduction must include:
 - a. The signer's first name.
 - b. What level of ASL the student is studying
 - c. The title of the retell literature or original piece

2. All pieces must be performed naturally. Reading from scripts, cue cards, "cheat sheets" or copy-signing another individual is not permitted. Music can play in the background.
3. The student should wear solid contrasting colors with minimal jewelry and hair should be kept away from the face.
4. Students should wear solid color clothing to easily see the hands.
5. Videos should not exceed 3:30.
6. It is not required, but encouraged, that students use multiple settings in their music video.

Judging Criteria

All entries will be judged according to the following criteria:

1. Clarity

The most important element in presenting in ASL is clarity, which asks this question: *Can my audience understand what I'm signing?* How well is each sign formed?

Key aspects of clarity include:

- Not rushing or moving too slowly to be distracting
- Well-formed parameters
- Clear facial expressions and non-manuals
- Confidence in the ability to sign the story

2. Sign Production

The basic building block of clarity is sign production, which focuses on how well each sign is formed. It makes the difference between unclear mumbling and effective communication. When signing a Classifier story, it is imperative to master sign production. Some areas to focus on:

- Handshapes should be well-formed, precise, and accurate
- Know the parameters of each sign, including handshape, palm orientation, location, movement, and non-manual components
- Smooth delivery of signs, rather than appearing jerky, confused, or uncertain

3. Presentational Format

Signing for an audience requires a different type of signing than the casual conversation between friends. Presentational communication emphasizes formality appropriate to the situation.

Avoid these common errors:

- Breaking eye-contact with the camera
- Nervous gestures, such as tucking hair behind the ears, rocking on feet, slouching, and playing with clothes
- Long pauses
- Staring up at the ceiling or down at the ground

Things to include:

- Use a larger sign space
- Use the space around the signer to establish reference points and details
- Use facial expressions and non-manual signals deliberately and clearly
- Sign slightly slower than usual with artistic motion
- Stand straight with both feet on the flat ground

4. Content

How well does the student communicate what he or she intended to communicate? The judges want to have a clear understanding of the meaning.



AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE
TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

In order to ensure that your submission to the ASLHS Literature Competition goes smoothly, use this checklist to make sure you have completed all of the steps and submitted forms and payments correctly.

- _____ Our school is a chapter of ASLHS with dues paid for 2020-2021. (If not go to www.aslhonorsociety.org and retrieve the ASLHS Chapter Membership Form. Your school must be a member of ASLHS before your students can participate)
- _____ The Sponsor of our ASLHS chapter is: _____ and she/he is a member in good standing of the ASLTA with dues paid for the 2020-2021 membership cycle. (If not go to www.aslta.org/membership and pay dues before submitting materials to the competition).
- _____ The school has paid a \$25 entry fee and completed the Student Entry Form.
- _____ All students have completed an application and release form.
- _____ All student work is in individual folders and labeled appropriately.
- _____ Student videos are entered with a YouTube link (marked unlisted so only those with a link can see the video).
- _____ The sponsoring teacher has placed all work into ONE Google Folder and labeled it appropriately.