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About the Competition

The Homer competition is a low-commitment, high-reward competition aimed at students across the United States. The competition allows students to explore the humanities beyond regular school curriculum. All submissions are evaluated with a rubric through a multi-round process to ensure objective review. Our panel consists of professors and other educators.

If the competition does not have enough submissions, no winners will be announced.

We accept submissions in a wide variety of media. See below.

Submission Guidelines

Submissions must...

1. Be in one of the following formats: writing (typed or handwritten), video, drawing (digital or by hand), photo, collage, song (recorded, sheet, or lyrics), poem, **OR** any mix of the aforementioned options.
 - a. For any written submissions (excluding poems): be between 200 and 300 words; size 12 Times New Roman, double spaced.
 - b. For any recorded submissions: be under 2 minutes.
 - c. For drawings, paintings, photos, and collages: contain 10 or fewer images.
 - d. For sheet music:
 - e. For lyrics and poems: be between 5 and 15 stanzas
2. Be original work; no form of plagiarism is tolerated. Include citations when necessary.
Citations are not counted in the final word count.
3. Address one of the two prompts in a creative manner.
4. Include a creative title.
5. Bear no name or identifying characteristic on the submission itself (for blind review purposes).

Other languages

We accept foreign language submissions, provided they are accompanied by an English translation. The translation must remain under 300 words or 15 stanzas, depending on the format of your piece. This translation is the only part of your submission that will be graded.

Our Rubric

Note: the rubric below is subject to small changes as the prompt for the month requires.

Performing Arts Submission Rubric

	0	1	2	3	4	PTS
ANSWER TO THE PROMPT	- Does not sufficiently respond or relate the the prompt - Takes an offensive or vulgar approach to the prompt - Does not adhere to prompt guidelines	- Provides a response to the prompt and adheres to guidelines - Lacks creativity, originality, or proficiency in chosen form of expression	- Creatively and directly responds to the prompt - Displays proficiency in chosen medium - Adheres to guidelines			___ / 2
PROFICIENCY & CONTENT	- Demonstrates consistent technical errors (typos, editing mistakes, improper musical notation, etc) - Displays a lack of effort - Lacks originality and/or proper citations (no need to do official MLA citations, but it must be clear when work is not your own, and who it belongs to)	- Demonstrates some technical errors (typos, editing mistakes, improper musical notation, etc) - Displays a lack of time commitment and thought - Lacks creativity - Cites sources properly	- Demonstrates few technical errors - Displays a commitment of time and/or effort - Employs some form of creativity and originality - Properly cites sources	- Displays very few technical errors - Displays a clear commitment of time and effort - Employs creativity and originality - Displays proficiency in chosen medium - Properly cites sources	- Displays no technical errors - Displays a clear commitment of time and effort - Employs creativity and originality - Displays excellence in chosen medium - Properly cites sources - Utilizes out of the box thinking and an interesting approach to the prompt	___ / 4
COMPLEXITY & DEPTH		- Demonstrates sophisticated thought - Shows complex understanding of the prompt OR - Uses the prompt to address other elements of life and/or existence OR - Employs some other kind of complexity				___ / 1
Additional Comments:						___ / 7

Written Submission Rubric

	0	1	2	3	4	PTS
ANSWER TO THE PROMPT	- Does not sufficiently respond or relate the the prompt - Takes an offensive or vulgar approach to the prompt - Does not adhere to prompt guidelines	- Provides a response to the prompt and adheres to guidelines - Lacks creativity, originality, or proficiency in chosen form of expression	- Creatively and directly responds to the prompt - Displays proficiency chosen language/ writing style - Adheres to guidelines			___ / 2
PROFICIENCY & CONTENT	- Demonstrates consistent technical errors (typos, editing mistakes, grammatical errors, etc) - Displays a lack of effort - Lacks originality and/or proper citations (no need to do official MLA citations, but it must be clear when work is not your own, and who it belongs to)	- Demonstrates some technical errors (typos, editing mistakes, improper musical notation, etc) - Displays a lack of time commitment and thought - Lacks creativity - Cites sources properly	- Demonstrates few technical errors - Displays a commitment of time and/or effort - Employs some form of creativity and originality - Properly cites sources	- Displays very few technical errors - Displays a clear commitment of time and effort - Employs creativity and originality - Displays proficiency in chosen language and writing style - Properly cites sources	- Displays no technical errors - Displays a clear commitment of time and effort - Employs creativity and originality - Displays excellence in chosen language and writing style - Properly cites sources - Utilizes out of the box thinking and an interesting approach to the prompt	___ / 4
COMPLEXITY & DEPTH		- Demonstrates sophisticated thought - Shows complex understanding of the prompt OR - Uses the prompt to address other elements of life and/or existence OR - Employs some other kind of complexity				___ / 1
Additional Comments:						___ / 7