High School Creative Writing

In-Person Audition Requirements

The Creative Writing Department is looking for students who are passionate about reading and writing. We want writers who have a love for words and want to use their voices to tell their stories and share their ideas.

To apply to SDSCPA Creative Writing:

Please prepare a portfolio of your best works to submit at your audition.

On the day of your audition, please arrive earlier than your appointment time to allow for check-in. Once you have been escorted to your audition, you will complete an on-demand writing prompt, which will be added to your portfolio submission.

Works submitted for your portfolio should share your voice and your passion for writing. You may pick works you've already written or write new ones for the audition. Portfolios should include the following:

- Statement of Purpose
- **Two** different forms of creative writing. Choose any two: scriptwriting, fiction, nonfiction, and/or poetry.
- Clearly label EACH piece with the type of submission (e.g."Statement of Purpose" or "Fiction")
- Each piece should have a title that is centered and be generally free of grammatical and mechanical issues.

The portfolio should include:

1. Statement of Purpose

- Write a two-paragraph statement of purpose that shares 1) how and why you love reading and writing and 2) how you hope to grow in your writing at SDSCPA. If you need some ideas, think about the following to help you:
    - Why do you love to read and write?
    - What work that you've written are you most proud of and why?
    - What kinds of writing do you like to do the most? Why?
    - What stories/writing most engage you and why do they engage you?
    - What or who is your greatest influence as a writer and how do they influence you?
    - Are you planning on continuing your studies in writing after SDSCPA? Or do you have a plan to have a career in writing when you are older? Tell us about this.
    - Writers engage in the world around them. How are you engaged?
    - What author would you like to meet and why?

2. **Two** of the Following:

- Script Writing Sample: Your script may be a scene or a short one-act and should demonstrate your ability to create an engaging character and use dialogue and action to tell the story of that character. Your script should be around two (2) and four (4) pages, and be in correct play or film formatting.
- Fiction Sample: Your short story can be any genre and should demonstrate your ability to create an engaging character and use description and/or dialogue to tell the story of that character. Your story should be between 500 - 1,000 words, which would be two (2) to four (4) pages double spaced.

- Nonfiction Sample: Nonfiction piece can be an expository, persuasive, argument, or personal essay and should demonstrate your ability to share your perspective on a topic that is important to you. Your nonfiction should be between 500 - 1,000 words, which would be two (2) to four (4) pages double-spaced.
- Poetry Sample: Your poem can be in any format (i.e. sonnet, villanelle, haiku, ballad, free verse, etc.) and should demonstrate your ability to use words, sounds, and rhythm to express your ideas. Poems are often in verse format, but you can also submit a prose poem.

The On-Demand Writing Sample

We want to see what you are inspired by and what your voice is, raw and unfiltered. In other words, we want to see what your writer's soul is like.

You will be asked to show your inventiveness and craftsmanship as a writer on the spot and without revision. This is not expected to be a polished work; instead, it is designed to capture the essence of you as a writer. You will be provided a picture for inspiration and you will be given 20 minutes to create a work in any form: poetry, script, fiction or nonfiction.

Areas of assessment will include:

- Accuracy of writing form and style
- Inventiveness of ideas and style
- Overall craftsmanship of writing

SDSCPA High School Creative Writing Audition Rubric