THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

College of Food, Agricultural and Environmental Sciences

OSU Extension

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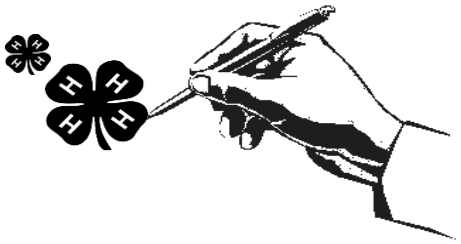
July 1, 2026



Re: Creative Writing Entries Due Friday, July 10th, 2026
(White pages said Monday, July 6th 2026, but we extended it.)

Dear Creative Writing Exhibitor,

We are sending this letter as a reminder that **Shelby County Junior Fair Creative Writing Entries are due to the Shelby County Extension Office by Friday, July 10th, 2026**

Please adhere to the following rules when you submit your entries:

- Each entry is to be typed or printed neatly on white, 8 ½ x 11 paper
- Stories should be double-spaced
- Poems may be single-spaced.
- The entrant's **name, class**, and **sub-class** should be included on the cover page.
- The entrant's last name along with a page number should be on each page.
- Submit **each** entry in a 9 by 12-inch envelope (one envelope per entry). Clearly mark entrant's name, class and sub-class on the upper left corner of the envelope. Do not use any type of folder. A paper clip or staple is sufficient to keep the pages together.
- **PROJECT BOOKS ARE REQUIRED FOR INTERVIEWS!!**

Classes/sub-classes are listed below. Please be sure your entry corresponds with the 4-H project and fair entry in which you submitted on or before June 1st.

BOOK 587
CLASS 28: WRITING AND REPORTING FOR TEENAGERS
SUB-CLASSES:
A. *Feature Story, Senior, Non-fiction human interest (maximum 1,000 words)*
B. *News Story, Senior, Non-fiction news story (maximum 1,000 words)*

BOOK 588
CLASS 29: THE WRITER IN YOU
SUB-CLASSES:
A. *Rhymed Poetry, Junior- Submit a collection of 3 poems*
B. *Rhymed Poetry, Senior - Submit a collection of 3 poems*
C. *Free Style Poetry, Junior - Submit a collection of 3 poems*
D. *Free Style Poetry, Senior - Submit a collection of 3 poems*
E. *Short Story, Junior (Maximum 2,000 words)*
F. *Short Story, Senior (Maximum 2,000 words)*
G. *Essay, Junior, non-fiction (Maximum 500 words)*
H. *Essay, Senior, non-fiction (Maximum 500 words)*

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When you submit your entry, you will be asked to sign up for a specific interview time. Interviews will take place at the Shelby County OSU Extension Office on **Wednesday, July 22nd, beginning at 9:30 a.m.** If you elect to mail your entry to our office, please call in to schedule an interview.

Judges will review the creative writing pieces prior to interviews so that they are able to provide you, the author, with constructive feedback on your work. Criteria used to evaluate entries include title, appeal, story-telling impact, creativity, and transition. Interviews will relate to the entry and prove project knowledge, writing technique, and story development.

Class winners will be announced, and awards will be presented on **Sunday July 26th, at 1:00 p.m**., just prior to the start of the 4-H Style Revue, in the Youth Building on the fairgrounds. Per Ohio State Fair guidelines, there are no Creative Writing State Fair Projects/Qualifiers.

If you have questions or concerns, don't hesitate to contact us at 937-498-7239. We look forward to receiving your entry.