



Youth Programs

National Literary Competition 2023-2024 Rules and Guidelines

(changes from the previous year will be highlighted in orange)

TABLE OF CONTENTS

| Section | Page |
|--|-------------|
| 1. Introduction | 3 |
| 2. Objectives | 3 |
| 3. Eligibility | 3 |
| 4. Divisions & Categories | 4 |
| 5. Timeline | 4 |
| 6. ASL Rules & Guidelines | 5 |
| 7. Writing Rules & Guidelines | 7 |
| 8. Deadlines & Registration | 8 |
| 9. Submitted Entries | 9 |
| 10. Prizes & Awards | 9 |

1. INTRODUCTION

This Rules and Guidelines booklet is written to govern the Gallaudet University National Literary Competition: ASL and Writing for Deaf and Hard of Hearing students.

This is the **ninth** year that Gallaudet University's Youth Programs is hosting the National Literary Competition (NLC). In the past, Gallaudet hosted the annual Gallaudet National Essay, Art, and ASL competition for a number of years until it ended in 2010. The submissions for the NLC will be done entirely through YouTube for ASL and Google Drive links for Writing. All entries will be reviewed by a panel of judges consisting of Youth Programs staff and members of the Gallaudet community including students, staff, and faculty members.

Winners and honorable mentions will be posted on the social media pages and website of Gallaudet University's Youth Programs. **One Grand Prize winner** from the ASL competition and **another Grand Prize winner** from the Writing competition will have the option of choosing from three prizes: an all-expense-paid trip to Gallaudet and Washington, D.C.; free registration and transportation for one of Gallaudet's Summer Youth Camps; or a \$1000 scholarship to Gallaudet.

2. OBJECTIVES

The National Literary Competition is sponsored by Gallaudet University's Youth Programs.

The purpose of the National Literary Competition in ASL is to further the development of academic ASL; promote creativity and originality in the use of ASL; and to foster a sense of pride in ASL among Deaf and Hard of Hearing students.

The purpose of the National Literary Competition in Writing is to allow deaf and hard of hearing students to showcase their creativity and originality in written English.

3. ELIGIBILITY

For the ASL competition, contestants must be deaf or hard of hearing, and currently enrolled in the 2nd through 12th grades.

For the Writing competition, contestants must be deaf or hard of hearing and currently enrolled in the 6th through 12th grades.

Additionally, all students must register under the school that they are currently enrolled in.

The Youth Programs office reserves the right to request verification from any contestant to determine their eligibility.

Students may participate in the ASL competition as many years as they would like as long as they are enrolled in the 2nd through 12th grades.

Likewise, students may participate in the Writing competition as many years as they would like as long as they are enrolled in the 6th through 12th grades.

4. DIVISIONS & CATEGORIES

4A. DIVISIONS

The ASL competition is broken down into four divisions:

- Elementary (2nd- 5th grades)
- Middle School (6th-8th grades)
- High School (9th-12th grades)
- *Deaf Plus (2nd-12th grades)

The Writing competition is broken down into two divisions:

- Middle School (6th-8th grades)
- High School (9th-12th grades)

*The term “Deaf Plus” is used here as a general grouping for students with additional learning disabilities and/or who are on an alternative track in school.

4B. CATEGORIES

There are **five** categories in the ASL competition:

- Handshapes Stories
- Poetry
- Storytelling
- Presentation
- ABC/Numbers Stories

There are **two** categories in the Writing competition:

- Poetry
- Creative Writing

5. Timeline

Submission Period (for elementary, middle and high school):

- December 11-22, 2023

Award Ceremony:

- February 29, 2024 (not a live event)

Winners and Honorable Mentions’ ASL Entries Shared With Public:

- Videos will be posted on the Youth Programs’ YouTube Channel after the Awards Ceremony.
- <https://www.youtube.com/@GUYouthPrograms/playlists>

Winners and Honorable Mentions’ Written Entries Shared With Public:

- Written entries will be posted on the Youth Programs' website after the Awards Ceremony.

6. ASL RULES & GUIDELINES

See the rules for different age categories below for more specific guidelines.

- All entries must be submitted through video format via a YouTube link.
- All entries must have the audio removed from the video before submitting the file.
- All ASL submissions must be one continuous video.
- Judges must be able to see the signer from the torso (hip level) up to a few inches above the head.
- In their video submissions, signers must be standing up (this does not apply to those with limited mobility).
- Use a solid color background.
- Use appropriate clothing (i.e. solid colors, colors contrasting with the background).
- Title slides are **required** for all ASL Handshapes Story submissions and must list the handshapes used in the video (this will not count against the time limit).
- Title slides for all other categories, besides the ASL Handshapes Story category, are not required and are optional (if you plan on incorporating a title slide, it will not count against the time limit).
- If filming using a phone, videos must be in landscape mode, not in portrait mode.
**Refer to supportive image page 10*
- One entry can be made per contestant per category. For example, a Middle School student may submit up to five videos: one ASL Handshapes Story, one ASL Poem, one ASL Story, one ASL ABC/Number Story and one ASL Presentation entry.
- Submissions **MUST** be original (created by the contestant). If it is discovered that a contestant has copied from someone else's work, that contestant will be automatically disqualified from the ASL Competition for that year.
- Special effects **CAN** be used in ASL Presentation submissions. For example, students can add bullet points or infographics to their videos.
- **DO NOT** use special effects for ASL Handshapes Story entries, ABC/Number Story entries and/or Storytelling entries.
- **DO NOT** introduce yourself or your poem/story/presentation title in ASL because this will count against the time limit.
- **DO NOT** include the name of your school anywhere in your video submission.
- **DO NOT** submit videos that are sped up to meet the time limit.
- **DO NOT** submit videos composed of two or more clips spliced together.
- **DO NOT** use props in your videos.
- If a contestant doesn't abide by the rules above, the submission will be disqualified automatically.

6A. AGE GROUP RULES & GUIDELINES

- **Elementary and Deaf Plus**

- Contestants may ask their families and/or teachers to help them develop their ideas for their submission. They may also ask for feedback from others before submitting their final draft.
 - The performance shown on film must be done by the contestant alone.
 - Contestants may enlist the help of someone else to do the filming and the editing of their submissions.
- **Middle School and High School**
 - Contestants may ask their families and/or teachers to help them develop their ideas for their submission. The performance shown on film must be done by the contestant alone.
 - Contestants may enlist the help of someone else to do the filming and to show them how to edit their submissions. All actual editing must be done by the contestant alone.

6B. CATEGORY RULES & GUIDELINES

- **ASL Handshape Story Theme:**

You wake up as an animal, what happens to you after that?

- 2-minute limit.
- For Elementary and Deaf Plus students, handshape stories can have up to 4 handshapes. For Middle and High School students, handshape stories can have up to 3 handshapes.
- All submissions must include a title slide that lists the handshapes used in the video. This will not count against the time limit.
- Review ASL Rules & Guidelines in section 6.

- **ASL Poetry Theme:**

This category has no theme.

- 2-minute limit.
- Among other things, judges will look for repetition in handshapes and rhythm
- Review ASL Rules & Guidelines in section 6.
- *(For inspiration check out ASL poetry from deaf poets such as Patrick Graybill, Nathie Marbury, Clayton Valli, and so on)*

- **ASL Storytelling Theme:**

Tell a story about a character who found a mysterious egg in a strange place and the creature that then hatched from it.

- 3-minute limit.
- Among other things, judges will look for the use of the theme in a creative and meaningful way.
- Review ASL Rules & Guidelines in section 6.

- **ASL Presentation Themes:**

- **Elementary:**

Tell us a goal that you want to accomplish and explain how you plan to reach that goal.

- **Middle School:**

Pick an extinct animal that you would want to bring back to life and explain how that animal would then have a positive impact on the planet.

- **High School:**

Should there be a salary cap for celebrities like athletes and actors?

- 3-minute limit.
- Review ASL Rules & Guidelines in section 6.

- **ASL ABC/Numbers Story Theme:**

You take the place of your favorite character, describe your day.

- 2-minute limit.
- Contestants should choose to use either the alphabet OR numbers in their story and not both.
- ABC stories do not have to use all the letters in the alphabet (A-Z), but are expected to be in proper order e.g. A-K or O-Z is fine, but skipping letters is not acceptable (using A-K, skipping L and M then using N-Z).
- Number stories should use numbers in sequence e.g. 1-25 and not skip numbers (using 5-10, skipping 11-13 and continuing with 14-25).
- Both ABC and Numbers stories can be done either backwards or forwards.
- Review ASL Rules & Guidelines in section 6.

7. WRITING RULES & GUIDELINES

- All submissions must be in English.
- Submissions **must be original** and created by the contestant. If it is discovered that a contestant has used someone else's work, that contestant will be automatically disqualified from the Writing Competition for that year.
- One entry can be made per contestant per category. For example, a student can submit up to **two** papers: one for the Creative Writing category, and one poem.
- Submissions exceeding the maximum number of pages in a specific category will be disqualified.

7A. AGE GROUP RULES & GUIDELINES

- **Middle School**

- Contestants may ask their families and/or teachers to help them develop their ideas for their submission. They may also ask for feedback from others before submitting their final draft.
- Contestants may ask for help from teachers to edit their work.

- **High School**

- Contestants may ask their families and/or teachers to help them develop their ideas for their submission.
- Contestants MAY NOT ask for help from anyone to edit their work.

7B. CATEGORY RULES & GUIDELINES

- **Poetry Theme:** This category has no theme.

- 1,000 word limit.
- Any poetic format will be accepted.
- Entries must be in portrait format.

- **Creative Writing Theme:**

Tell a story about a character who found a mysterious egg in a strange place and the creature that then hatched from it.

- 1,500 word limit.
- Entries must be in Times New Roman font, size 12.
- Entries must be in portrait format.

8. DEADLINES & REGISTRATION

For your convenience, the registration and submissions form are combined in one online form. Once this form is submitted, students will be registered for the competition AND we will have received their submissions.

Registrations and submissions for all entries will be accepted from December 11, 2023 from 8:00am EST through December 22, 2023 at 4:00pm EST. Any submissions submitted before or after the designated opening and closing dates and times will not be accepted.

All ASL submissions must be submitted as a YouTube video. The registration/submission form will prompt submitters to include a link to their YouTube video.

All Writing submissions must be submitted as a Google Doc link. The registration/submission form will prompt submitters to include a link to their Google Doc. **IMPORTANT: Google Docs' share settings MUST be set to 'anyone with the link' can view.**

The link for the **middle/high school** registration form is:
https://apply.gallaudet.edu/register/NLC_MS_HS

The link for the **elementary school** registration form is:
https://apply.gallaudet.edu/register/NLC_Elem

The registration form can also be found online on our website:
www.gallaudet.edu/youth-programs/national-literary-competition

9. Submitted Entries

Once entries, both written and video, are submitted for the National Literary Competition, schools cannot share these works with the public until after the winners and honorable mentions are announced during the awards ceremony.

As we recognize each of the winners and honorable mentions' submissions, schools and parents are encouraged to share these winning entries and join us in commemorating these students.

10. PRIZES & AWARDS

Winners

For both ASL and Writing, most Age Divisions and Categories will have a 1st place and 2nd place winner as well as an unlimited number of honorable mentions as determined by a panel of judges. For the Deaf Plus Divisions, only a 1st place winner will be selected along with an unlimited number of honorable mentions as determined by a panel of judges.

1st place and 2nd place winners will receive a package containing Youth Programs gear and/or gifts.

In addition to the prizes, all winners and honorable mentions will be recognized on Gallaudet University Youth Programs' YouTube page and/or website and during the National Literary Competition's Awards Ceremony.

GRAND PRIZE WINNERS (TWO)

One middle school or high school entrant from the ASL competition and one middle school or high school entrant from the Writing competition will be selected as the Grand Prize winners, these will be the contestants who submitted the best project across all categories. **The Grand Prize winners will receive a certificate and a choice between three prizes: an all-expense-paid trip to Gallaudet, free registration and transportation to one of Gallaudet's Summer Youth Camps, or a \$1000 scholarship to Gallaudet.**

CHANGES TO THE RULES AND GUIDELINES

These Rules and Guidelines are subject to change by Youth Programs staff as necessary to maintain a fair and enjoyable competition. Mid-competition changes will be kept to an absolute minimum.

*Image for section 6, ASL Rules & Guidelines:



Portrait

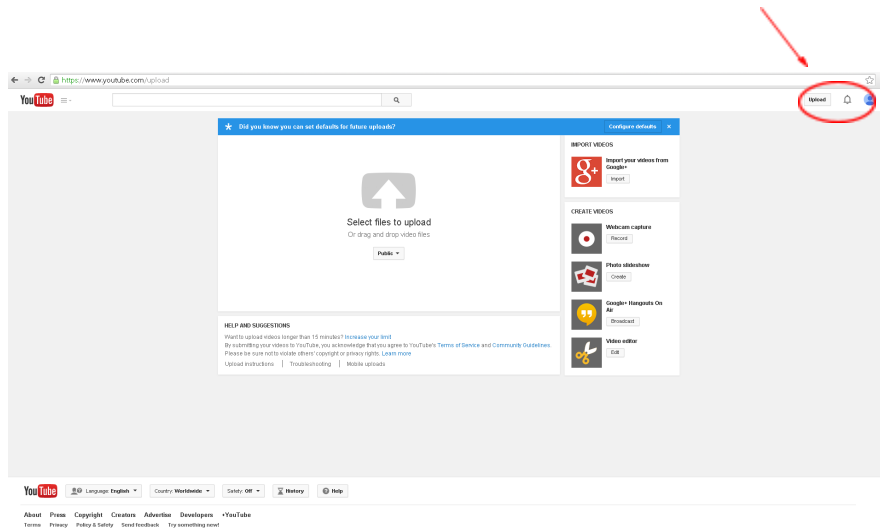


Landscape



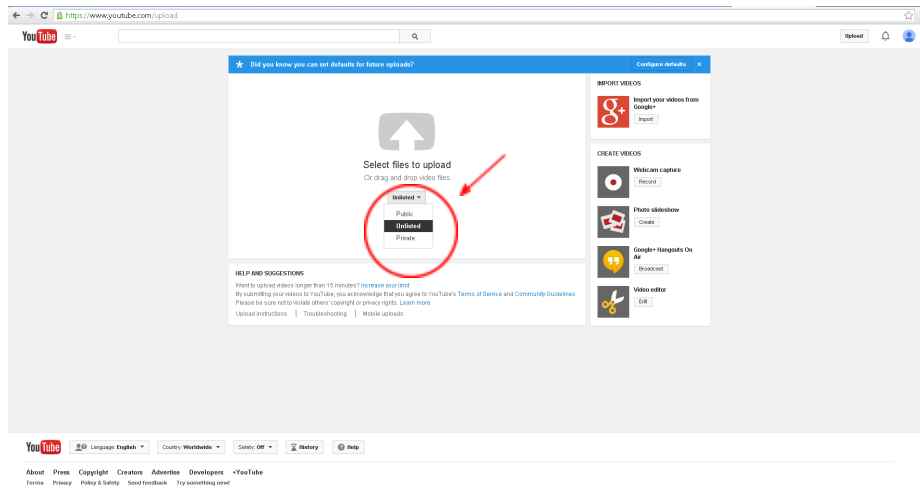
Steps to create YouTube link for your ASL submission(s): Step One:

Go to www.youtube.com and click on “Upload” button to upload your video.



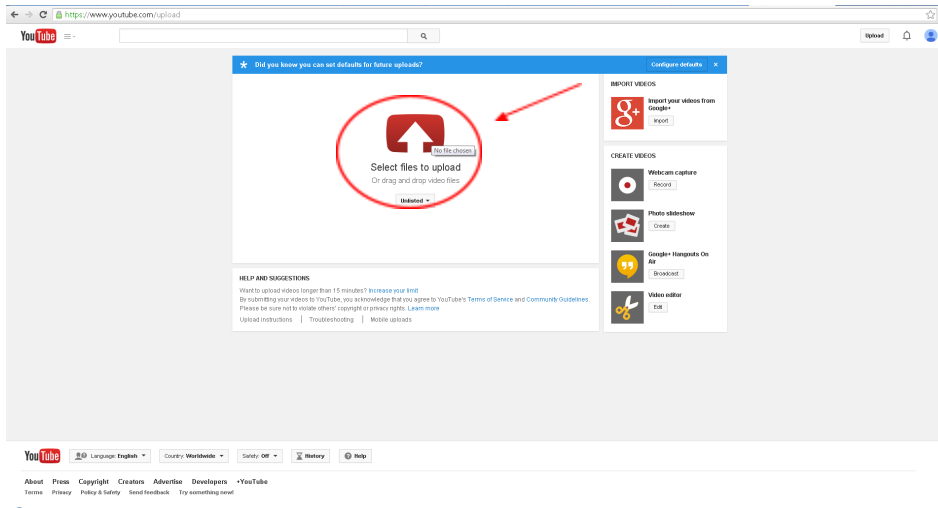
Step Two:

Change the listing from “Public” to “Unlisted”.



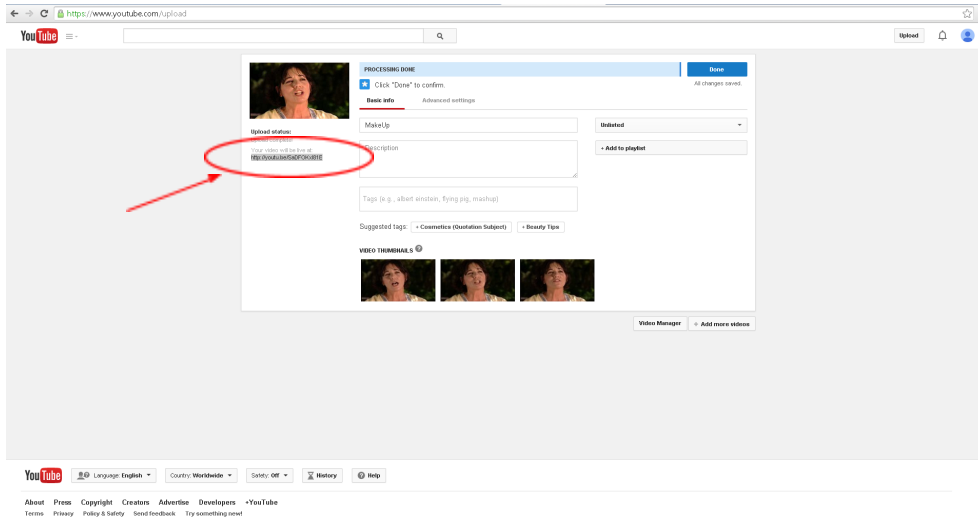
Step Three:

Click on the arrow icon to upload your video, then wait until youtube.com notify you that your video has been successfully uploaded.



Step Four:

Copy the link as shown while the video is processing, and send the link to us.



Steps to share Google Docs files for your Writing submission(s):

- 1) Upload your Word document to Google Docs or open your file on Google Docs.
- 2) Click on the share button on the upper right corner.
- 3) Click on “Get Shareable Link”
- 4) **IMPORTANT:** In the General Access field, select “Anyone with the link can view”.
- 5) Click on Copy Link
- 6) Paste the link in the registration/submission form
- 7) Complete the rest of the registration/submission form and submit during the two-week submission period.