

Creative Writing Audition Requirements

Overview

The mission of the Kinder HSPVA Creative Writing Department is to give students a strong foundation of writing craft and literary history so that they can develop their unique voices. Additionally, we aim to give students the skills they need to produce and publish their work using technology, performance, or traditional pen and paper, all while nurturing an appreciation for the arts in all its forms. We give students the space to work independently and collaboratively, allowing them to develop skills that help them become productive, responsible citizens at HSPVA and beyond.

When are auditions and callbacks?

The first stage of auditions for the 2023-24 school year will be virtual.

Submissions will be accepted from January 10, 2023 – February 3, 2023. Please check our website at that time for uploading instructions. For the written exercises, we suggest completing the assignments in one document. You will then copy and paste each prompt into the submission platform. You can NOT upload documents for the written exercises. The submission deadline for materials is Friday, February 3, 2023 at 11:59 PM CT.

Callbacks are by invitation only. The format of callbacks is to be determined. You will be notified if you have received a callback no later than February 10, 2023. Callback instructions will be provided to students at that time. Hold the date of Saturday, February 18, 2023, for a possible in-person callback.

What do I need to prepare?

- 1) **Six-word Memoir:** Write a 6-word memoir that tells us a little bit about who you are, what you do, and/or what you hope to become. You must use six words; no more, no less. Be sure to make each word count.

Here are a few examples:

Some cross-eyed kid, forgotten then found.
- *Diana Welch*

Born in the desert, still thirsty.
- *Georgene Nunn*

No future, no past. Not lost.
- Matt Brensilver

- 2) **Complete the Metaphor:** A metaphor is a comparison of 2 unlike things. For example, "my backpack is a treasure chest" or "my sister is a shooting star."

Please fill in the following blanks to create your own metaphors,

- A. _____ is a _____.
(person who cares for you)
- B. _____ is a _____.
(object)
- C. _____ is a _____.
(free choice)

Choose A, B, or C and explain how that metaphor is true. Your response should be no more than one page.

- 3) **Invent Definitions:** Make up a definition for the words listed below. Use your imagination to create whatever meaning you would like for the words. Think about whether you think it is an object, an action, or an adjective. We are looking for your creativity.

- A. frucuss
B. prangolobad
C. spanaritar

Choose A, B, or C to include in a poem, a short story, or a short script that you write about anything of your choosing. Your response should be no more than one page.

- 4) **60-90 second video – "Why do I want to be part of HSPVA's Creative Writing department?"**

Create a 60-90 second video where you explain what you love about writing, what you like to read, and anything else you feel you should share with us. You can use the genre of your choice, but the video should just be you – no editing, special effects, music, etc. You can do this as a straight "about me" piece, or you can turn it into a spoken word performance. We want to see the authentic you, and we know that for many, showing that to us via a video may feel scary. If you'd like to turn it into more of a performance, go for it! Otherwise, just relax, smile, and tell us a little bit about yourself.

How do I upload my materials?

Submissions will be accepted from January 10, 2023 – February 3, 2023. Please check our website at that time for uploading instructions. Each assignment and video will be uploaded individually.

Helpful Tips:

- **Formatting** – Formatting your work is not necessary. You must copy and paste your work into the submission platform. DO NOT STRESS about format. We are interested in your writing.
- **Read!** The more you read– poetry, fiction, non-fiction– the better your writing will be. You'll have a better sense of rhythm, and you'll expand your vocabulary.
- **Write!** Keep a journal. Write about your day or observations. Create stories and poetry. The more you write, the more comfortable you'll be when writing in the audition.
- **Practice!** Work with your English teacher to prepare for the audition. Ask your teacher for feedback.
- **Relax!** We hope that you will enjoy this process. Please don't try to write like what you think we want you to sound like. We want to hear your voice. You're the only one who can sound like you.