Writer's Hook

COMPETITION GUIDE

Sunday, November 8, 2026

Los Altos Hills Town Hall

Writing Contest

THEME

Renewal

LENGTH

250 to 750 words

About 1 to 3 pages

WRITE

During the event

Brainstorming beforehand is welcome

SUBMIT

By 3:00 PM

When judging begins

Formatting Guidelines

Font and size	12-point Times New Roman, black
Spacing	1.15 spaced prose; poetry may be single- or double-spaced
Margins and indents	1 to 1.5 inch margins, left-aligned text, 0.5 inch paragraph indents, no extra space between paragraphs
Header	Contest name at top left, word count at top right; begin your text 3 to 4 lines below
Page numbers	Required for pieces longer than two pages

Judging Criteria

Judges score each entry 1 to 5 on four criteria, for up to 20 points.

1–5

Originality

A fresh idea, or a familiar one told in a new way, developed through specific details

1–5

Voice

A perspective and personality that sound like you, held on purpose throughout

1–5

Craft

Precise, vivid words and sentences varied in length and rhythm

1–5

Structure & polish

An opening that draws readers in, an ending that lands, and few distracting errors

Based on the Scholastic Art & Writing Awards criteria: originality, skill and personal voice.

Prizes



First place

$100

Amazon gift card



Second place

$75

Amazon gift card



Third place

$50

Amazon gift card

Winners are announced at the Closing Ceremony at 4:15 PM.

Competition Rules

1. Submit writing from the event.
2. Don't use AI to write. Submissions are checked with Pangram.
3. Standard grammar and spell checkers are allowed.
4. Stay at the venue for the whole event.
5. Treat everyone with respect and kindness.

How to Submit

Please review the instructions below to complete your submission.

Submission Deadline

3:00 PM

Submit your piece by 3:00 PM to be eligible for judging.

Submission Link

Access the form online:

https://forms.gle/dSPh1JzXTdf6CmsG7

Ensure all required fields are filled out prior to submitting.