

Creative Writing Tournaments

for 7th and 8th graders



"I didn't know all those years ago when I stayed late after school one day to try out for a writing team, I would get a whole shiny new future."

-Lindsay Puckett, Power of the Pen Alum and published author

Why should your school participate?

- Nearly 300 schools across Ohio participate in our creative writing tournaments. Students compete among the best student writers in the state and make lifelong friendships
- 93% of participants say Power of the Pen has helped improve their writing
- 83% of participants feel more confident in their writing skills because of Power of the Pen
- Coaching and mentoring makes a true impact on the students' lives



How do you form a team and compete?

On a Power of the Pen team, 7th and 8th grade students have a platform to share their own unique stories, build confidence in their writing, and develop leadership abilities. These crucial life skills not only lead to success in college and a wide range of careers, but also will enable these young writers to help their communities thrive.



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REGISTRATION OPENS SEPTEMBER 1, 2023
EARLY BIRD PRICING AVAILABLE THROUGH
OCTOBER 15, 2023

Get started with Power of the Pen



Appoint an Advisor

- Each school appoints a Power of the Pen coach--a teacher, staff member, parent or volunteer with a passion for creative writing.
- Coaches must follow the school's guidelines.

Register in the Fall

- Choose your appropriate region. The regional map is available on our website. If your school cannot compete on that region's tournament day, please contact us.
- Schools can choose to have a 7th grade team, an 8th grade team, or both a 7th grade team and an 8th grade team.
- Check the website for what is needed prior to registration, including payment info.

Hold Tryouts and Form the Team

- Promote the team to 7th and 8th graders. Check out the student videos on Power of the Pen's YouTube channel for inspiration!
- A maximum of six students per grade level is permitted on a team. You may compete with fewer. Hold tryouts if interest is high!
- We recommend practicing with at least eight writers per grade level, though it is not required.

Find and Train Judges

- The school must provide one judge per tournament they participate in. It may be the coach.
- Judges must have a college degree and complete Power of the Pen training in a scheduled workshop or by using online materials.
- Depending on how many students qualify for regional and state, teams could need up to four judges for these tournaments.

Follow the Coaches' Checklist

- Begin practicing in the fall, using the materials on our website as guides.
- Coaches should read all manuals provided.
- The Coaches' checklist details important info such as deadlines!

Celebrate!

- On tournament day, we have a full day of inspiration, competition and celebration planned for your teams. Parents are encouraged to attend the awards ceremony at the conclusion of the day.

Find more details:

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