

IFCA INTERNATIONAL • YOUTH CONVENTION

NATIONAL INSPIRATIONAL WRITING MINISTRY TRAINING AREA (MTA)

Rules & Guidelines

➤ PURPOSE

To encourage students who are gifted in writing to exercise that gift for ministry and outreach in their local church (2 Tim. 2:15).

➤ RULES

1. All entries should consist of Biblically-based or Christian material written for the purpose of evangelism or Christian edification.
2. The Junior High Division shall be limited to students having completed grades 7-9, and the Senior High Division to those having completed grades 10-12.
3. All entrants must provide three (3) copies of their final written submission, along with three (3) copies of a correctly filled-out evaluation form. **These three (3) copies of all MTA submission materials must be presented at registration on the first day of convention.** The final deadline for all MTA materials to be received in the Convention Office is no later than 8pm the first day of Convention.
4. All quoted or paraphrased material (including artwork) from another source must be properly cited with the author's or artist's name, title of work, and date published. All incorrect citation or plagiarism will result in automatic disqualification from entry. Artificial Intelligence (AI) applications may only be used for checking grammar and spelling and never for source or original material.
5. Entries may consist of gospel tracts (1-10 pages), Devotional (1-7 days' worth, 2000 words or less), Christian inspirational poetry (2,000 words or less), Christmas or Easter programs (2000 words or less), narrative prose (4,000 words or less), properly formatted drama or puppetry scripts (10 pages or less), or a Christian article for publication in a newsletter or journal (2500 words or less). Any other type of writing submission which does not match these categories must be approved by the MTA Coordinator.
6. The same presentation must be used throughout both Regional and National MTA events and must not have been previously evaluated at an IFCA National Youth Convention.

Because of the nature of this MTA, not all regional events will have the resources to evaluate these entries. Please contact the MTA Coordinator (see below) if you wish to participate in this MTA but your region does not yet support it.

SPECIAL NOTE: *We reserve the right to use, publish and/or distribute the works presented as promotional, or inspirational material within the IFCA youth ministry. This exposure may include but is not limited to: The Voice Magazine or distribution on our youth website.*

7. Presentation Attire Guidelines

- All clothing must be **modest**—appropriate for the worship environment. Any questions or concerns can be directed to mta@ifcayouth.org.
- **Young Men:** Dress pants (no jeans), dress shirt with collar, belt and dress shoes; no flip-flops. Hair must be clean and neatly groomed.
- **Young Ladies:** Dress or blouse with skirt or dress pants (no jeans). Dress shoes or sandals; no flip-flops. Hair must be clean and neatly groomed.

➤ **EVALUATION**

1. A panel of 3 persons will evaluate each entry. There are 6 categories of evaluation on the Preaching Ministry Training Area Evaluation Form. Each evaluator will assign a division 1, division 2 or division 3 rating for each category. The overall score will be calculated by taking an average of the scores awarded from all 3 evaluators.

Final Division Rating	Average Score
Division 1	1.0 – 1.5
Division 2	1.6 – 2.4
Division 3	2.5 – 3.0

Note: The National Ministry Training Area evaluators are advised to consider the age and experience of the entrant in the evaluation process and score accordingly.

2. An introduction must be written on a cover page, which includes the presenter’s name, church, IFCA region and the title of the presentation, with a short description of the content and purpose.
3. Evaluators will meet with each student to give verbal feedback in addition to their written feedback. Evaluation forms and materials will be returned to students via their church leaders at the end of Convention.

➤ **HINTS**

1. Be creative, but above all be biblical. Our creative impulse and abilities are given to us by God as those created in His image, the first Creator, to primarily bring Him glory and accomplish His purposes in His church and in the world. In this way, any conception of God or the gospel which is contrary to what God has revealed, or which is so convoluted as to be unrecognizable is inappropriate.
2. Make sure that what you are writing, no matter what it is, could be used in your local church setting, either in a normal weekly service, or a special program or outreach. This is the thrust of every ministry training area and must be the focus here as well.

➤ **SCHOLARSHIPS**

Scholarships may be awarded to those in 11th and 12th grade who receive an overall Division 1 rating.

<p style="text-align: center;">Questions? Contact: Pastor Andy Huber NATIONAL MINISTRY TRAINING AREA COORDINATOR (913) 727-5006 • mta@ifcayouth.org</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Revised Jan. 2024</p>
