

American Sign Language Honor Society



High School • College • University

2010 ASL Literature Competition Guidelines

Welcome! The American Sign Language Honor Society (ASLHS) is pleased to announce the 2010 ASL Literature Competition. The following instructions and forms provide the necessary information to participate in the competition. To participate, students must attend a school sponsoring an active 2009-2010 ASLHS chapter.*

**New for 2010: All submissions must be placed on a USB thumbnail drive.
DVDs and VHS tapes will not be accepted.**

Topics are open to students at all levels:

Personal Narrative: My Dream Vacation

Where will you go? What does this place look like? What will you do there? Make the judges want to go on this dream vacation by being as detailed, creative, and excited as you can be!

Retell or Create an Original Number Story

Amaze the judges with your creative use of numbers to tell a story!

Entry deadline: April 9, 2010

Entries and payment must be postmarked on or before this date. Late submissions will not be accepted.

Contact Person:

Jason E. Zinza
ASLHS National Coordinator
jzinza@gmail.com

For the Teacher:

1. Membership

For your students to participate in this competition, you or another ASL teacher at your school must belong to the American Sign Language Honor Society (ASLHS) and sponsor an ASLHS chapter on campus. Dues for the 2009-2010 academic year must be current for your students to compete.

If you or another ASL teacher at your school have not established an ASLHS chapter on campus, you may submit application forms and dues with the 2010 ASL Literature competition entries.

Competition entries submitted by students not represented by an official ALHS chapter are automatically disqualified.

2. Due Date

All entries are due or postmarked by **April 9, 2010**. Late entries will be disqualified.

3. Competition Categories

Students may submit entries in these categories:

- Personal Narrative: My Dream Vacation
- Retell or Create a Number Story

Students at any level of ASL instruction are welcome to submit entries in one or both categories.

4. Registration Fees

Each student submitting an entry must pay the registration fee. The fees are:

\$10.00 per student, regardless of the number of entries submitted.

5. Payment

Payment of submission entries must be in check form, made payable to *American Sign Language Honor Society* or *ASLHS*. **Purchase orders or credit cards are not acceptable.** You may collect the entry fees from your students and send in one check with the full amount, or

* Not a chapter? New ASLHS chapters may be established by submitting the appropriate forms and dues with the 2010 competition entries by April 9, 2010. Membership forms available at <http://www.aslhonorsociety.org>.

have students (or a parent / guardian) write a personal check and attach it to the entry form. Entry fees are nonrefundable under any circumstances.

NOTE: In the event a check is bounced, the ASL Honor Society will turn over the debt to a personal debt collection agency in addition to placing the chapter on probation. If a chapter is on probation, then students are not allowed to participate in ASLHS-sponsored events (including literature competitions and the ASL scholarship), teachers cannot apply for mini-grants, and graduation materials will not be delivered. In addition, any bank fees incurred due to a bounced check will be added to the total amount due.

6. Format

All entries are to be submitted on a standard USB thumbnail drive. **DVDs and videotapes are not acceptable.** Multiple students may place their entries on one drive. Simply place each video file on the thumbnail drive and send it in.

7. Payment

The ASL teacher is responsible for coordinating the completion of all registration forms. There are 3 forms that need to be filled out:

1. Competition cover sheet, filled out by the teacher;
2. Payment form, filled out by the teacher;
3. Entry form, filled out by the student.

These forms are included in this document.

8. Prizes & Certificates

Prizes are as follows, for both categories:

- First place: \$100.00
- Second place: \$75.00
- Third place: \$50.00

All winners also receive the ASLHS Lapel Pin to commemorate their achievement.

9. Announcement of Winners

Winners will be announced May 14, 2010, on the ASL Honor Society website. If your student wins in any category, you will be informed prior to the announcement.

* Not a chapter? New ASLHS chapters may be established by submitting the appropriate forms and dues with the 2010 competition entries by April 9, 2010. Membership forms available at <http://www.aslhonorsociety.org>.

10. Winning Entries

Winning entries will be posted on the ASL Honor Society's YouTube page. **It is essential that any student under 18 years of age have a parent or guardian's permission to have their child's entry posted.** This information appears on the student's entry form.

11. Return of Thumbnail Drives

All submissions become the property of ASLHS and will not be returned, so please make a backup copy of all entries. Thumbnail drives can be returned if you include return postage.

IMPORTANT

You or another ASL teacher on campus must sponsor an ASLHS chapter in order for any students to participate. To join ASLHS, submit the membership form and dues to the membership coordinator before April 9, 2010.

If you are including ASLHS membership along with entries into the 2010 ASL Literature competition, you must do the following:

1. Include ASLHS membership form;
2. Include a check for ASLHS membership dues;
3. Include ASLTA membership form (available at www.aslta.org);
4. Include a separate check for ASLTA membership dues;
5. Include the student entries.

Please consider joining ASLHS before submitting entries to the competition!

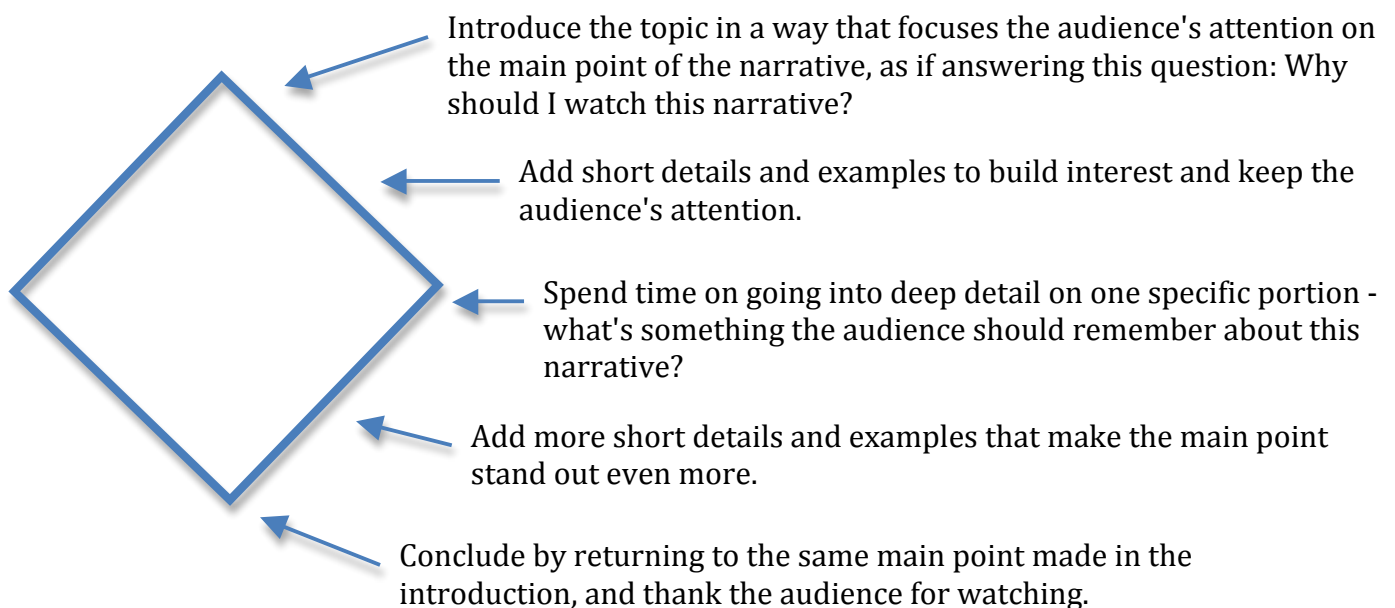
All information and forms are available at <http://www.aslhonorsociety.org>

* Not a chapter? New ASLHS chapters may be established by submitting the appropriate forms and dues with the 2010 competition entries by April 9, 2010. Membership forms available at <http://www.aslhonorsociety.org>.

Personal Narrative Guidelines

The goal of this category is to expose students to the narrative genre of ASL literature, in which an individual shares thoughts on a topic meaningful to that person. Winning students will demonstrate mastery of the content (including vocabulary parameters, facial expressions, body shifts, grammaticalized non-manual signals, and spatial awareness), in addition to telling the narrative in a clear, compelling fashion.

1. The narrative must be presented by one signer.
2. All narratives must be performed naturally. Reading from scripts, cue cards, "cheat sheets" or copy-signing another individual is not permitted.
3. Only the student signing the story may appear in the frame.
4. Foul language, sexual imagery, or obscene topics are not permitted.
5. Narratives should be signed in presentational format. To learn more about this format, carefully review the Judging Criteria below.
6. Avoid English-influenced signs or excessive mouthing.
7. Narratives should reflect the diamond structure of ASL narratives:



8. Content: Minimum, each narrative should include the following:
 - the fingerspelled name of the vacation destination;
 - using classifiers to show what this destination looks like (island, desert, mountainous, etc.)

* Not a chapter? New ASLHS chapters may be established by submitting the appropriate forms and dues with the 2010 competition entries by April 9, 2010. Membership forms available at <http://www.aslhonorsociety.org>.

- at least one description of something seen at this destination (a person, a monument, a landmark, etc.)
- at least one description of an activity that can be done at this destination

Number Story Guidelines

The goal of this category is to expose students to the number story genre of ASL literature, in which number signs are arranged to tell a story. Winning students will demonstrate mastery of using sequenced number signs in a visual, compelling manner in addition to standard use of non-manual signals and other language skills relevant to the story.

1. The number story must be presented by one signer.
2. All number stories must be performed naturally. Reading from scripts, cue cards, "cheat sheets" or copy-signing another individual is not permitted.
3. Only the student signing the number story may appear in the frame.
4. Foul language, sexual imagery, or obscene topics are not permitted.
5. Number stories should be signed in presentational format. To learn more about this format, carefully review the Judging Criteria below.
6. Avoid English-influenced signs or excessive mouthing.
7. Number stories should include at least 10 different number signs (1-10; 11-20; etc.). Number signs must follow their numeric sequence.

General Guidelines

1. Submissions are sent on one USB thumbdrive.
2. An introduction signed by the student must be included before signing the narrative or number story. Wait 2-3 seconds after the end of the introduction before beginning the narrative or number story. The signed introduction must include:
 - a. The signer's first and last name
 - b. What level of ASL the student is studying
 - c. The title of the narrative or number story

* Not a chapter? New ASLHS chapters may be established by submitting the appropriate forms and dues with the 2010 competition entries by April 9, 2010. Membership forms available at <http://www.aslhonorsociety.org>.

3. On the USB thumbnail drive, include a Word or Notepad document with the following information:

- a. The name of the school
- b. A list of all the submission titles and their creators
- c. Name of the ASLHS sponsor / ASL teacher

Judging Criteria

All entries will be judged according to the following criteria:

1. Clarity

The most important element in presenting in ASL is clarity, which asks this question: *Can my audience understand what I'm signing?* Key aspects of clarity include:

- A well-developed narrative or number story, with an opening, body, and conclusion
- A logical sequencing of events, characters, and details
- Features such as non-manual signals, facial expressions, and role-shifting used appropriately and clearly
- Confidence in the ability to sign the narrative or number story

2. Sign Production

The basic building block of clarity is sign production, which focuses on how well each sign is formed. It makes the difference between unclear mumbling and effective communication. When signing a narrative or number story, it is imperative to master sign production. Some areas to focus on:

- Handshapes should be well-formed, precise, and accurate
- Know the parameters of each sign, including handshape, palm orientation, location, movement, and non-manual components
- Use space to establish tense, location, and character position rather than pointing repeatedly
- Smooth delivery of signs, rather than appearing jerky, confused, or uncertain

3. Presentational Format

Signing for an audience requires a different type of signing than the casual conversation between friends. Presentational communication emphasizes formality appropriate to the situation. Avoid these common errors:

- Breaking eye contact with the camera

* Not a chapter? New ASLHS chapters may be established by submitting the appropriate forms and dues with the 2010 competition entries by April 9, 2010. Membership forms available at <http://www.aslhonsociety.org>.

- Nervous gestures, such as tucking hair behind the ears, rocking on feet, slouching, and "bouncing" signs

Things to do include:

- Using a larger sign space
- Using the space around the signer to establish reference points and details
- Using facial expressions and non-manual signals deliberately and clearly
- Signing slightly slower than usual
- Standing straight on both feet flat on the ground

4. Content

How well does the student communicate what he or she intended to communicate? Whether it's a personal narrative or number story, the judges want to have a clear understanding of the content. The personal narrative's content should be arranged logically and clearly, with details supporting main ideas rather than a list of disjointed concepts. Number stories should create a clear visual image of the concept.

Competition Contact & Address

The coordinator of the 2010 ASL Literature competition is Jason E. Zinza. Questions may be sent to jinza@gmail.com. Note: Put the phrase "ASL Literature Competition" in the subject heading to facilitate a quick response.

Mailing Address

All USB thumbnail drives, submission forms, and ASLHS membership forms (if needed), should be mailed to this address:

Jason E. Zinza
ASL Literature Competition
11175 Georgia Avenue, #249
Wheaton, Maryland 20902

* Not a chapter? New ASLHS chapters may be established by submitting the appropriate forms and dues with the 2010 competition entries by April 9, 2010. Membership forms available at <http://www.aslhonorsociety.org>.

American Sign Language Honor Society

2010 ASL Literature Competition

Payment Form

This sheet must be filled out by the ASL teacher

Teacher name (print) _____

Teacher email (print) _____

Name of school (print) _____

School address (print) _____

School phone () _____ - _____

How many students are you registering? _____

How many students are submitting an entry? _____ x \$10.00 = _____

2010 competition entry total = _____

Are you including an application to establish a 2009-2010 school year ASLHS chapter? If yes, please check here: _____

Amount for ASLHS chapter dues totals = _____

If including ASLHS membership dues, please write that amount on a separate check from the competition entry fees. All checks should be made out to ASL Honor Society.

Are you including an ASLTA membership form? If yes, please write a separate check in the necessary amount made payable to ASLTA. **DO NOT COMBINE THE ASLTA and ASLHS fees into one check!**

Total amount of ASLHS check: \$ _____

Total amount of ASLTA check: \$ _____

American Sign Language Honor Society

2010 ASL Literature Competition

Student Entry Form

This sheet must accompany all entries and be completed by the student

School name _____ ASL Teacher _____

Student name _____ Email _____

Student address _____

How long have you studied ASL? _____ years _____ semesters

Title of Story _____ Circle one: Narrative Number Story

Title of Story _____ Circle one: Narrative Number Story

Read & Acknowledge the Following

Yes No

____ ____ The submissions I performed are my own original work

____ ____ I have received minimal assistance from my ASL teacher / professor

____ ____ I have included the entry fee of \$10.00

____ ____ I understand that if I win first, second, or third place in any category, my story may be posted on TeacherTube and / or YouTube

____ ____ I understand that all entries become the property of the ASL Honor Society and will not be returned

____ ____ I have included a signed introduction before my narrative or number story

I _____ (print student name) acknowledge that the entry or entries I have submitted represent my own work and ideas.

Student Signature

Date

****If the student entering the 2008 ASL Literature Competition is younger than 18 years of age, please have a parent read and sign the following:**

I give my child _____ (print student name) permission to submit their entry to the 2010 ASL Literature Competition sponsored by the ASL Honor Society. I understand that if my child places in any category, their work may be posted to TeacherTube (<http://www.teachertube.com>) and / or YouTube (<http://www.youtube.com>).

Parent Signature

Date