

American Sign Language Honor Society



High School • College • University

Welcome! The National American Sign Language Honor Society (ASLHS) is pleased to announce the 2020 ASL Literature Competition. The following instructions and forms provide the necessary information to participate in the competition. To participate, students must attend a school with a current ASLHS chapter on campus.

ABC Stories

Students will create their own original ABC stories.

- the story must use 26 letters A-Z or Z-A
- the story must have a cohesive storyline and be easy to follow
- specific handshapes should be either signs, classifiers, or a mix of signs and classifiers

Suggested ABC story examples:

- <https://youtu.be/rJWUedN8Pgc>
- <https://youtu.be/qj1MQhXfVJg>
- <https://youtu.be/-lv8a299bQE>

Entry deadline: April 15, 2020

For the Teacher:

1. Membership

For your students to participate in this competition, your school must belong to the American Sign Language Honor Society (ASLHS) and sponsor an ASLHS chapter on campus. Dues for the 2019-2020 academic year must be current for your students to compete. Additionally, you or another teacher at your school must be a member of the American Sign Language Teachers Association (ASLTA) with membership valid for the current 2019-2020 dues cycle.

If no ASLHS chapter exists on your campus, submit application forms and dues with the 2020 ASL Literature Competition entries.

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

If you are including ASLHS membership along with entries into the 2020 ASL Literature competition, you must do the following:

- Include ASLHS & ASLTA membership forms;
- Include a separate check for ASLHS & ASLTA membership dues.
- Remember all payment fees must be mailed to the ASLTA Treasurer at

ASLTA Treasurer
ASL Literature Competition
PO Box 64801
Rochester, NY 14624

Please consider joining ASLHS before submitting entries to the competition! All information and forms are available at <http://www.aslhonorsociety.org>

2. Time Frame by **April 15, 2020.**

All entries are due or postmarked by April 15, 2020. Late entries will be disqualified.

3. Competition Category

- Original Creation- Students will create their own original ABC story. There is no reproduction category.

4. Competition Classes

The contest is open to students regularly enrolled in secondary school and post-secondary language courses. Students at any level of ASL instruction are welcome to submit entries in one or both categories. The “classes” are based on student experience.

CLASS A-BEGINNER: Students of ASL Level 1 and 2, CODAs (children of Deaf adults) who are not fluent or Deaf students who are not fluent in ASL.

CLASS B-INTERMEDIATE: Students of ASL level 3 and above, CODAs who have emerging ASL skills and Deaf students who have emerging skills as well as CODAs and Deaf with proficient skills.

Students may compete in a higher class, but may not compete in a lower class. A student who wishes to compete, but who is not currently enrolled in an ASL class, may compete at the level most recently completed. Teachers should make a careful distinction among Classes A and B categories. Students may be disqualified if, in the opinion of the judges, they are in the wrong level or class.

5. Registration Fees

Each School must send a \$25 entry fee. This fee covers all students entering from the school.

6. Payment

Payment of submission entries must be in check form, made payable to *American Sign Language Teachers Association or ASLHS*. **Purchase orders or credit cards will not be accepted.** Entry fees are nonrefundable.

All payment fees for the competition, ASLHS chapter dues, and ASLTA membership dues are sent to: ASLTA Treasurer, PO Box 64801 Rochester, NY 14624

All competition entry forms and materials are sent to the following email address: competitions.aslhs@gmail.com or physical mail address:

Jessica Parker
ASLHS Literature Competition
Family Partnership Charter School
4400 Business Park Blvd. Ste. B-22
Anchorage, Alaska 99503

NOTE In the event a check is returned due to insufficient funds, 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, 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 and processing fees will be added for the total amount due for checks not accepted by the bank for any reason.

7. Submission Format

Because we receive hundreds of entries, your organization when submitting your entries will greatly assist and expedite the judging process. Entries may be submitted **via mail** on a standard USB drive or **via email** to competitions.aslhs@gmail.com. Entries should be placed within the appropriate folder. Make sure the file name looks like this:

Class A

Last name, First name - school acronym – Title of Work

Examples: Scott, Monica – EHS – Invictus

Or

Class B

Last name, First name - school acronym – Title of Work

Examples: Scott, Monica – EHS – Invictus

Email entries should be sent to competitions.aslhs@gmail.com. Please DO NOT send each individual student entry in separate emails. Group the entries together by category and send folders of the entries, along with scanned copies of all the paperwork. Google share of files is also an acceptable form of submission. Please make sure handwriting is legible!

8. Registration Forms

The ASL teacher is responsible for coordinating the completion of all registration forms. There are 5 forms that need to be filled out:

1. Competition Cover Sheet, filled out by the teacher (Print and include a hard copy);
2. School Entry Form, electronic copy filled out by the teacher (Included on the USB drive);
3. Payment Form, filled out by the teacher (Print and include a hard copy);
4. Student Entry Form, filled out by the student (Print and include a hard copy).
5. Media Release Forms, filled out by the student and parent.

- Use the **Submission Checklist** to assist in ensuring your entry is complete.

9. Prizes & Certificates

- Winners will be decided by renowned Deaf actor **CJ Jones**.
- Top students will receive a certificate of participation
- Entries whose works are considered a finalist will receive a GOLD seal. Entries whose works are considered in the top % will receive a SILVER seal.
- All classes will receive a certificate of participation
- Prizes for both categories are as follows:
 - First place: \$100.00
 - Second place: \$75.00
 - Third place: \$50.00
- Winning students and teachers will receive a signed photograph from CJ Jones.

10. Announcement of Winners

Winners will be announced **May 20, 2020** on the ASL Honor Society website. If your student wins in any category, you will be informed prior to the announcement.

11. Winning Entries

Winning entries will be posted on the ASL Honor Society's website, YouTube, and social media sites. **It is essential that any student under 18 years of age have a parent or guardian's permission to have his/her child's entry posted.** This information appears on the student's entry form.

12. Return of USB Drives

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

What is an ABC story?

ABC stories are signed stories using the letters of the alphabet. They are signed either A-Z or A-Z. They incorporate the signed letter and classifiers. ABC stories are an important part of ASL literature. ABC stories are a great way to practice ASL and can also be a tool to help a Deaf child's sign language skills.

Why sign ABC stories?

ABC stories have long been a rich tradition in ASL literature. They are often used as a means of live visual storytelling. It is a part of Deaf culture and help brings literature to life. It is embraced, enjoyed, and shared by the Deaf community and those who support the Deaf community. ABC stories allow the student to internalize the language features found in the story such as correct sign choice, use of space, non-manual markers, and other associated features of ASL discourse.

General Competition Guidelines

1. An introduction signed by the student must be included before signing the ABC story. Wait 2-3 seconds after the end of the introduction before beginning. The signed introduction must include:
 - a. The signer's name/s.
 - b. What level of ASL the student is studying
 - c. The title of the ABC story
2. ABC stories must be performed naturally. Reading from scripts, cue cards, "cheat sheets" or copy-signing another individual is not permitted.
3. ABC stories may be presented individually or with a partner.
4. The student should wear solid contrasting colors with minimal jewelry and hair should be kept away from the face.
5. The background should be neutral and solid. Please give enough space in all directions so signs do not go out of the video frame. No computer enhanced backgrounds are permitted.



Judging Criteria

All entries will be judged according to the following criteria:

I. Clarity-The most important element in presenting in ASL is clarity, which asks this question: *Can my audience understand what I'm signing?* How well is each sign formed?

Key aspects of clarity include:

- Not rushing or moving too slowly to be distracting
- Well-formed parameters
- Clear facial expressions and non-manuals
- Confidence in the ability to sign the story

II. 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 Classifier 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
- Smooth delivery of signs, rather than appearing jerky, confused, or uncertain

III. 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
- Nervous gestures, such as tucking hair behind the ears, rocking on feet, slouching, and playing with clothes

Things to include:

- Use a larger sign space
- Use the space around the signer to establish reference points and details
- Use facial expressions and non-manual signals deliberately and clearly
- Sign slightly slower than usual with artistic motion
- Stand straight with both feet on the flat ground

IV. Content- How well does the student communicate what he or she intended to communicate? The judges want to have a clear understanding of the content.

- the story must have 26 letters A-Z or Z-A
- the story must have a cohesive storyline and be easy to follow
- the specific handshapes can be signs, classifiers, or a mix of signs and classifiers

Competition Contact & Address

The coordinator of the 2020 ASL Literature competition is Jessica Parker. Questions regarding the competition may be sent to aslhs.competitions2@aslta.org

Payment questions may be directed to treasurer@aslta.org with a cc to Jessica Parker at aslhs.competitions2@aslta.org

Mailing address for All Competition Entry Materials:

All USB drives and submission forms should be mailed to the address below. Do not send packets by certified mail or signature-needed delivery, as this will result in a delay.

Jessica Parker
ASL Literature Competition
Family Partnership Charter School
4400 Business Park Blvd. Ste. B-22
Anchorage, Alaska 99503

Mailing Address for Payment Forms and Checks:

ASLTA Treasurer
ASL Literature Competition
PO Box 64801
Rochester, NY 14624



AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE
TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

American Sign Language Honor Society 2020 ASL Literature Competition

COVER SHEET

This sheet must be attached on top of all registration forms & completed by the ASL teacher.

Teacher name (print) _____

Teacher email (print) _____

Circle one:	There is an ASLHS chapter at my school	I included an application to form an ASLHS chapter with these entries	I am sending an application to form an ASLHS chapter separately
Circle one:	Our ASLHS chapter is sponsored by an ASLTA member with dues paid for 2019/2020	I included our ASLTA membership form and dues payment with these forms	I am sending an ASLTA membership form and dues payment separately

Name of school (print) _____

School address (print) _____

School phone () _____ - _____

Teacher phone () _____ - _____

How many ABC story videos are you registering? _____

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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 () _____ - _____

Personal Phone () _____ - _____

School Entry Fee \$25.00 = \$ _____

Including ASLTA and ASLHS dues? (See forms for exact amounts) = \$ _____

2020 competition entry total = \$ _____

Make all checks out to ***American Sign Language Teachers Association or ASLTA.***

Send this form and check to:

*ASLTA Treasurer
PO Box 64801
Rochester, NY 14624*

(Include a copy with Competition Materials)

American Sign Language Honor Society

2020 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 or _____ semesters

Entry Title _____ Circle one: Beginner or Intermediate

Entry Title _____ Circle one: Beginner or Intermediate

Read & Acknowledge the Following

- I have received minimal assistance from my ASL teacher / professor
- I understand that if I win, my piece may be posted on ASLHonorSociety.org and other media sites.
- I understand that all entries become the property of the ASL Honor Society and will not be returned

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 2020 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 his/her entry to the 2020 ASL Literature Competition sponsored by the ASL Honor Society. I understand that my child's work may be posted on the ASLHS home page- <http://www.aslhonorsociety.org> and other media sites.

Parent Signature

Date

American Sign Language Honor Society

2020 ASL Literature Competition

Submission Checklist

In order to ensure that your submission to the ASLHS Literature Competition goes smoothly, use this checklist to make sure you have completed all of the steps and submitted forms and payments correctly.

- ___ Our school is a chapter of ASLHS with dues paid for 2019/20. (If not go to www.aslhonorsociety.org and retrieve the ASLHS Chapter Membership Form. Your school must be a member of ASLHS before your students can participate)
- ___ The Sponsor of our ASLHS chapter is: _____ and she/he is a member in good standing of the ASLTA with dues paid for the 2019/20 membership cycle. (If not go to www.aslta.org/membership and pay dues before submitting materials to the competition).
- ___ The school has paid a \$25 entry fee and completed the Student Entry Form which is enclosed.
- ___ Sponsor/Teacher complete and submit the following to:
ASLHS Competition Coordinator, Jessica Parker Family Partnership Charter School 4400 Business Park Blvd., Ste. B-22 Anchorage, Alaska 99503
- ___ Cover Sheet
- ___ School Entry Form
- ___ Student Entry Form (One form for each student submitting an entry)
- ___ USB thumb drive with all entries clearly organized into folders (see instructions page 4) or emailed folders of student entries sent to competitions.aslhs@gmail.com.
- ___ Payment Form (Do **NOT** send checks to Jessica Parker)
- ___ Sponsor/Teacher complete and submit the following to:
ASLTA Treasurer, PO Box 64801 Rochester, NY 14624
- ___ Payment Form
- ___ Copies of Cover Sheet and School Entry Form
- ___ Checks
- ___ ASLHS Chapter Membership Form with check (if applicable)
- ___ ASLTA Membership Form with check (if applicable)