



2020 EIGHTH ANNUAL STUDENT TEN-MINUTE PLAYWRITING FESTIVAL

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

Festival to be held January 25 and 26, 2020 at the Cook Theatre, Asolo/FSU Center for Performing Arts, 5555 N Tamiami Trail, Sarasota FL.

1. Eligibility — Plays considered eligible for production by Theatre Odyssey in its annual Student Ten-Minute Playwriting Festival must be the work products of persons who are legal Florida residents and who reside in the Gulf Coast area of Florida (**Charlotte, Collier, DeSoto, Glades, Hardee, Hendry, Hernando, Highlands, Hillsborough, Lee, Manatee, Pasco, Pinellas, Polk, Sarasota, and Sumter counties**). In the case of collaborations, the residency requirement pertains to all authors. Students must be in grades 9 through 12, or home-schooled equivalent, during the school year.

2. Script Requirements —

Length: The play must run no less than 9 minutes and no more than 11 minutes. Plays will be timed at dress rehearsal to ensure that running time is correct. Plays which do not meet this criterion will be performed but disqualified from competition.

Cast: No more than 5 actors. (More characters are allowed if actors may double.)

Genre: Comedy, drama, mystery, thriller or monologue — but no musicals or plays for children.

Technical Limitation: Play settings should be simple, suitable for small stage or black box theatre, requiring minimal furniture or set pieces and limited technical effects.

Format: PDF or Microsoft Word, prepared using standard formatting for a stage play*. The author's name must not appear on any of the pages, allowing the script to be initially evaluated anonymously. Pages should be numbered.

3. Originality — We seek work that is new, inventive, fresh, and is not an adaptation of another work. Submissions shall not have been previously presented as a full production before an audience of paying persons in any venue in the territory shown above. The on-line Entry Form includes the following **Confirmation of Originality**; by submitting the Entry Form to upload your script, you are confirming agreement with this statement:

I agree to Theatre Odyssey's submission requirements and understand that Theatre Odyssey will only consider original work. Plays which are based on any other published work, including but not limited to novels, short stories, films, teleplays, other theatrical scripts, etc., unless also written by the submitting author(s), are ineligible. By submitting this form, I declare that the attached script is my original work and conforms to Theatre Odyssey's requirements for the Student Ten-Minute Playwriting Festival. I understand Theatre Odyssey will make final production decisions based on the quality of the work and practicality of production, and such decisions shall be final. If my play is selected for inclusion in the Festival, I will provide a brief (150-word) biography, a JPG high-resolution photo, and a one-sentence description of the submitted play. I agree to be present at the final performance at the Cook Theatre, Asolo / FSU Center for Performing Arts, Sunday, January 26, 2020.

4. Submission Limit — There is a submission limit of 3 plays per playwright. There is no fee for submission. Regardless of multiple submissions, no playwright shall have more than one entry selected for production in the Ten-Minute Playwriting Festival.

5. Deadline — All submissions must be received on or before **November 15, 2019**.

6. Selection — The play selection process begins with three qualified readers reading each submission. The identity of the authors remains anonymous. An independent scoring system using a uniform matrix guides the readers in choosing the most worthy plays for production. As many as 8 plays are selected for a full production each year.

7. Judging — Three highly respected judges, selected by Theatre Odyssey, will choose a runner-up and the best play at the 2020 Student Ten-Minute Playwriting Festival. The winning play and runner up will be announced following the January 26 performance. The winning playwright receives a **\$1000 cash scholarship** plus a trophy to be displayed at their school. The runner-up receives a **\$500 cash scholarship**. Authors of other finalist plays receive \$100. In the case of collaborations, awards will be shared among the winning authors.

* We suggest you read "How to format your script" by Sam Graber on the website of The Playwrights' Center: <https://pwcenter.org/playwriting-toolkit/how-format-your-script>

A correctly formatted script is easier to read and evaluate. A Word template which you may find helpful is available for download.