

Academic Youth Rodeo – Creative Writing Event Guidelines

Second Through Eighth Grade

Growing Leadership One Project at a Time

Eligible Participants

- Second through Eighth Grade students who are residents of Walker County
- Divided into the following age groups:
 - Grades 2-3
 - Grades 4-6
 - Grades 7-8

Time Limit

- **30 minutes total**
- Time begins once prompts are read and materials are distributed
- A **5-minute warning** may be given

Materials

- **Paper and pencils provided** by event staff
- Erasers allowed
- **No personal notebooks, phones, or reference materials**

Writing Rules

- Students must choose **one prompt** from their age group
- Writing must be:
 - The student's **own work**
 - Completed **during the event**
- Stories may be **real or imagined**
- Writing must relate to:
 - Fair life, a project, or leadership growth
- Neat handwriting is encouraged but **not required**

Assistance

- Assistance with reading will be provided by the Academic Rodeo Judges/proctors.
- Judges/proctors can answer clarification questions.
- Adults **may not**:
 - Help plan or organize ideas
 - Suggest wording
 - Correct spelling or grammar

Completion & Submission

- Writing must be turned in when time is called
- Late submissions will not be accepted
- Student name and grade must be written on the paper

Scoring and Judging

- Entries are judged based on age level, creativity, effort, storytelling, and connection to the theme — not spelling or grammar alone.