

Guidelines for Story & Storytelling: Advanced Open Category (for persons not currently being schooled, but skilled in writing and/or presentation)

Goal

Our goal is to celebrate the heritage and continued relevance of the sixteenth-century Protestant reformation. Participants are asked to write and/or narrate a story that touches their audience so that faith is strengthened, understanding increased, and praise given to our faithful Lord who continues to gather, defend, and preserve his Church. Story and storytelling are powerful and creative forms of written expression that are well suited to exploring ideas and feelings and touching the minds and hearts of readers and listeners. Story writing and telling allow the author to flesh out some of the nuances of events surrounding the circumstances of the reformation. They also give the opportunity to make characters come alive by having them give voice to their experiences through thought and dialogue.

Content

The story submitted can be on one of the following topics or themes

- Specific events during the Great Reformation (15th and 16th centuries—a list of specific topic possibilities is available)
- Experiences of key figures of the Reformation
- A representation of what lives in the heart of the Reformed Christian today as he or she reflects on what has happened in the past

Story & Story Telling Guidelines

- Stories must be original works based on historical record, and fitting for the time period of the setting described.
- All stories must be submitted in written form.
- Narrations of stories must be submitted electronically and include a written transcript.
- The narrative story may be written by one person and read by another.
- Stories must be between 500 and 2500 words in length depending on the category of submission.

There are five categories of entry for story submissions:

1. Junior (Grades 4–6; 500 words)

2. Intermediate (Gr. 7–10; 500–1000 words)
3. Senior High School (Gr. 11–12; 1500–2500 words)
4. Post-Secondary (College or University level: 1500–2500 words)
5. Advanced Open (for persons not currently being schooled, but skilled in writing and/or presentation: 1500–2500 words)

Submissions

We hope that you will submit your story and/or perform your storytelling for some local Reformation celebrations around October 31. The deadline for this use of your talents will be established locally by conference, assembly, and rally organizers, **anytime between June and October 20, 2017.**

A second submission deadline has been established to submit stories that best match the guidelines given here, for possible publication. This submission deadline is **December 15, 2017.**

Participants in the post-secondary and advanced open categories may submit one story per entrant.

To fully appreciate the excellence of a story, it should be read aloud and heard. We encourage recording your storytelling on video or audio and uploading it to **YouTube** (please use the “unlisted” privacy setting). The video link should be included with the submission of the written text of your story.

Please send your story and recording link to Celebrate1517@gmail.com. You must include a filled-out **submission form**, for which you will find multiple links on our webpages. Your written text must be submitted in portable document format (**pdf**). The Celebrate 1517 Committee will code the submission to ensure complete anonymity when your story and narration are passed on the adjudication committee.

Permissions

By including your signature on our submission form, you are giving your permission for your submitted work—should it be selected—to be included in a commemorative book to be published, Lord willing, in 2018.