

HIGH SCHOOL  
*10 Minute Plays*  
WRITING CONTEST

# Guidelines 2022

The Theatre Nova Scotia High School 10 Minute Play Contest is an opportunity for Nova Scotia students in grades 10, 11 & 12 to submit their original scripts for evaluation by a professional jury.

## **DEADLINES: April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022**

The Theatre Nova Scotia High School 10 Minute Play Contest is an opportunity for Nova Scotia students in grades 10, 11 & 12 to submit their original scripts for evaluation by a professional jury.

## **Three Finalists**

- Selected students will receive a playwright's fee of \$200:
  - Reading of their play by professional actors during the 2022 Virtual DramaFest on May 5<sup>th</sup> – May 7<sup>th</sup>, 2022
  - Selected students will be noticed on April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022
  - Selected students will receive dramaturgical notes and a feedback session
  - Selected students must be available for a 1-hour meeting on April 10<sup>th</sup> or 11<sup>th</sup>, 2022 between 4-8pm (by Microsoft Teams)
  - Selected students must provide revised scripts by April 18<sup>th</sup>, 2022
  - Selected students will be invited to watch the professional rehearsal (by Microsoft Teams)
  - Selected students will receive their honorarium upon submission of the 2nd draft

## Contest Conditions

- Selected students will be asked to make revisions and submit them via email as well as have a one-hour remote meeting with a dramaturge to discuss the final script (April 10<sup>th</sup> or 11<sup>th</sup> 2022, between 4 and 8pm).
- **Optional:** winners are encouraged to watch the rehearsal process by Microsoft Teams. The video of the professional reading will be aired online on May 5<sup>th</sup> – May 7<sup>th</sup>, 2022 as part of the 2022 Virtual Drama Festival.

## How To Submit

Please submit the following to [submissions@theatrens.ca](mailto:submissions@theatrens.ca) **OR** mail to Theatre Nova Scotia (1113 Marginal Rd., Halifax, B3H 4P7), on or before the deadline of **April 1, 2022, by 5pm:**

1. Application Form ([fillable](#) or [printable](#))
2. Your Script!

## Submission Rules

- Scripts must be approximately 10 pages in length
- Scripts must be written for no more than four characters
- Work may be submitted in English, French or Mi'kmawi'simk.
- Only one entry per student
- Works must be original
- No entries will be accepted after April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022
- Plays exceeding the 10-minute time limit will not be reviewed by the jury

## FAQ

*Does it cost money to enter the contest?*

No!

*Do I have to be taking a Drama course to enter the contest?*

No!

*What font size should I use?*

Choose 12 point font. Anything else is too difficult to read



*What spacing should I use?*

Choose double spacing

*When do I use italics in a script?*

Use italics for stage directions (e.g. actions that are unspoken)

*Why are there two deadlines?*

The two deadlines are to ensure we allow students to submit in either 1st or 2nd semester

*Can I submit early?*

Yes, of course!

*Can I submit more than one script? Or one in each semester?*

No, we will only accept one entry per student in the 2019-20 school year.

*What happens if I miss the first deadline?*

You can submit for the second deadline.

*What happens if I miss the second deadline?*

Your script will not be considered for the contest

*Do you have any resources that would help?*

<https://www.theatreontario.org/resources/training-resources/school-tools-for-high-school/writing-a-play.aspx>

<https://pwcenter.org/playwriting-toolkit/how-write-10-minute-play>

<https://www.emwelsh.com/blog/10-minute-play>

*Where can I get plays?*

Visit Theatre Nova Scotia's library or ask your teacher if they can help. You can read plays on site at Theatre NS. To check them out, take out a \$15 annual student membership. Our library resources are online at <http://www.theatrens.ca/programs-services/library/>

*Just how much can I push the "10 pages rule"?*

Hmm, good questions! Imagine when you are writing that each page lasts one minute. Depending on the type of script you are writing, some pages may have more dialogue than others. If your piece is chock-a-block full of text for the entire 10 pages, you may consider shortening it a bit. If the dialogue is sparse, a few extra pages won't hurt. Be sure to read the play out loud to yourself at the pace you imagine the characters speaking, allowing for stage directions. Time yourself – is it 10 minutes, give or take?

**Have other questions not covered here? Contact Administrator, Marcus Wong at [mwong\[at\]theatrens.ca](mailto:mwong@theatrens.ca) | 902-425-3876**