



# H I G H S C H O O L *10-Minute* P L A Y C O N T E S T

## Guidelines: 2019/20

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: December 6th, 2019 and March 6th, 2020**

Work may be submitted in any language or any combination of languages, and we will arrange for a translation.

### The Prizes

#### First, Second & Third Place

- Cash prize of \$300, \$200 and \$150 respectively
- An immersive weekend of workshops Apr 3-5, 2020 in Halifax which includes:
  - Special Playwriting Masterclass
  - Three dramaturgy sessions: In these sessions, winners will work with a professional director and actors to read, rehearse and develop their script for a staged reading
  - Staged reading of their play by professional actors at DramaFest on April 30, 2020
  - Opening reception to meet cast, director and other participants
  - Tickets to a theatre production
  - Package of Canadian plays
  - Accommodation assistance for students and their parent/guardian for those who live outside of Halifax
  - Breakfast & lunch provided Saturday and Sunday

### Runners up (3)

- Script development through Playwright Atlantic Resource Centre's Home Delivery program
- An immersive weekend of workshops Apr 3-5, 2020 in Halifax which includes:
  - Special Playwriting Masterclass
  - Opening reception to meet cast, director and other participants
  - Tickets to a theatre production
  - Package of Canadian plays
  - Accommodation assistance for students and their parent/guardian for those who live outside of Halifax
  - Breakfast & lunch provided Saturday

### Everyone

- Written feedback from the jury

### Contest Conditions

- All 6 winners must be able to be present in Halifax from 3:30pm-10pm on Friday April 3, 2020, for full day sessions (9am-4pm) on Saturday and Sunday April 4th and 5th. Winners will be asked to make revisions and submit them via email to the director as well as have a one-hour remote meeting to discuss the final script (date range April 6-20, 2020).
- A parent or guardian must accompany the winners at various times throughout the weekend. Accommodation will be arranged for winners who live outside of Halifax.
- **Optional:** winners are encouraged to attend the staged reading of the student scripts on April 30, 2020 at DramaFest. Winners are welcome to participate in DramaFest 2020. Any travel and accommodation for DramaFest readings or the festival must be covered by the student.

### 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 deadlines of December 6, 2019 or March 6, 2020:

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 any language or any combination of languages. Plays in languages other than English and French will be translated to English for evaluation and performance purposes. TNS will arrange for translator services during the immersive playwriting weekend, should need be.
- Only one entry per student
- Works must be original
- No entries will be accepted after March 6, 2020
- 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 Katharine (Kyle) Vingoe-Cram, Contest Coordinator at [kvingoecram@theatrens.ca](mailto:kvingoecram@theatrens.ca) | 902-425-3876**