



### ***Teen Writer! Video: “Descriptive Writing & the Five Senses”***

Discover innovative ways to depict your story’s *setting* with rich and specific descriptions – and it all starts with indulging your *five senses*! Award-winning writer Gina Catanzarite leads teens through an energizing exercise that challenges them to notice *and describe* not only what characters are *seeing*, but also what they’re hearing, touching, smelling, and tasting in a story’s setting.

**LEARN MORE ABOUT ENGAGING THE 5 SENSES AND WRITING VIVID DESCRIPTIONS OF YOUR STORY’S SETTING.**

### **[Writer’s Edit – How To Use All 5 Senses To Unlock Your Fictional World](#)**

See examples of creative writing that refers to sensory details *and* hear what published authors have to say about exploring the 5 senses in creative writing.

### **[Literary Terms – Imagery](#)**

Learn about **imagery** to create vivid images in the mind of your reader, and see examples of many different kind of imagery you can use in your creative writing.

### **[Medium.com – 10 Writing Prompts that use your five senses to fill the blank page](#)**

These writing prompts draw on your own memories to overcome writer’s block and recall sensory details in the scene.

### **[Writer’s Digest – Create Powerful Imagery in Your Writing](#)**

The best advice you’ll get as a writer: SHOW, don’t tell.

### **[Writing Forward – Creative Writing Prompts for Crafting Compelling Imagery](#)**

See examples of imagery that contributes to vibrant descriptions of setting and character.

### **[LiveScience.com – The Five \(and More\) Senses](#)**

Learn the science behind how the five senses work – and consider how those details may shape your creative writing!

LUMINARI is a Pittsburgh-based non-profit organization that develops original programs to broaden minds, inspire innovations and promote community engagement. For more information about Luminari visit [www.luminari.org](http://www.luminari.org), email [luminari@luminari.org](mailto:luminari@luminari.org) or follow us on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) and [Twitter](#)

### [Writer's Digest – Write Better Fiction](#)

Explore advice from experts and published authors about improving writing in a variety of fiction genres.

### [ReedsyBlog – 50 Best Writing Website of 2020](#)

From refining your fiction to learning about the publishing industry, explore these 50 recommended websites especially for writers!

## **Sources for Reputable Teen Writing Competitions**

- *ALWAYS* review contest guidelines *and* promised prizes very carefully. Have a parent, guardian, or school guidance counselor review the competition rules with you if you are unsure if the contest is reputable.
- A *few* reputable writing competitions charge small entry fees. *NEVER* enter competitions that charge substantial fees.
- Beware of “anthology schemes.” In short, these schemes ask you to submit your work for a “competition” and “winners” will be “published” in an anthology. Sometimes they charge entry fees for each piece of writing you submit. If your work is “chosen,” it will be “published” -- and then, of course, you can buy a copy of the anthology. *This is a money-making scheme. Everyone who submits writing gets “chosen” to be in the anthology, and they make their money from the submission fees and sale of anthologies.* These schemes are very common, and no industry professional sees them as credible samples of “published” work. Do not waste your money or your time on these anthology schemes.

### [SCHOLASTIC, INC. ALLIANCE FOR YOUNG ARTISTS AND WRITERS AWARD](#)

This is the SuperBowl of student writing competitions – and you can choose your preferred format, from poetry to fiction to short story. It also has categories for visual arts awards. This is an excellent and respected competition to enter.

- [SOCIETY OF PROFESSIONAL JOURNALISTS HIGH SCHOOL ESSAY CONTEST](#)
- [NATIONAL FEDERATION OF PRESS WOMEN](#) – High School Communications Contest
- [NATIONAL SCHOLASTIC PRESS ASSOCIATION](#)

*National Pacemaker Awards* are awards for excellence in American student journalism, given annually since 1927. The awards are generally considered to be the highest national honors in their field, and are unofficially known as the “Pulitzer Prizes” of student journalism.

- [Poetry Out Loud competition](#) – National student recitation competition
- [Journalism Education Association](#) – Aspiring Young Journalist Award
- [Voice of Democracy essay contest](#) – Veterans of Foreign Wars

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This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal blue ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.