Playwrights for Change: Year 14

"Creating Community"

AATE's National (Middle School/High School) Ten-Minute Play Writing Competition

National Competition Submission Rules
Submission deadline: March 1, 2027

1.) Host organization participation eligibility: AATE Member organizations in the United States and Canada or non-profit organizations in the United States and Canada affiliated with an individual AATE member.

2.) All host organizations must register on the official form available at AATE.com.

3.) Host organizations must include the AATE's logo on their marketing materials.

4.) Each host organization may submit only one entry to the national contest.

5.) Only plays written by students in grades 6 through 12 will be accepted.

6.) Plays may be made available on the AATE website for organizations to use for educational purposes.

7.) One (1) play submitted (from the Middle School and High School category) to the National Competition will be considered a "National Winner." We will also have one "Runner-up" this year from each category as well. Winning plays will be presented at AATE's Playwrights for Change Festival (Date TBD). Host organizations may provide staged readings, Zoom readings, and/or performances of finalist and winning plays, including at Theatre In Our Schools (TIOS) events.

8.) The national winning play (from each category) will be selected by a panel of judges chosen by the Playwrights for Change committee. All plays entered by host organizations will receive feedback from a professional theatre artist.

9.) Playwrights may not enter plays to more than one host organization.

10.) Playwrights must have permission from a parent or guardian to enter the contest. A signed competition application must be included with all submissions to the national contest.

11.) Plays must be the original work of the playwright and not an adaptation of pre-existing work.

12.) Scripts may not be co-authored. Scripts must be written by one playwright.

13.) Playwrights may revise their plays after they are selected by a host organization to be submitted to the national contest (**Deadline March 1, 2027**), and they may receive coaching from the host organization on those revisions. In the regional contests, student playwrights may be given the opportunity to rewrite their plays based on feedback received from the host organizations.

14.) Completed scripts must be **no longer than 10 minutes when read aloud**.

15.) Scripts may have up to, but **no more than six characters**.

16.) Plays must address or relate to the 2027 theme**, "Creating Community"**

17) Student playwrights must include their **name and title of their play on a cover page** and nowhere else on the script. Also, include a character breakdown with character names and identifying information.

18) The contest recommends (but does not require) 12-point Times New Roman font. The advantage is that when the standard playwriting format is followed, one-page equals about one minute of reading time

19.) Scripts should be printed in standard American format described in the formatting guide on the AATE website.

20.) AATE reserves the right to change any contest rule.

21.) AATE reserves the right to accept or reject any play submitted to the contest for any reason.

22.) AATE reserves the right to request changes and revisions from submitted scripts.

23.) AATE may post the names of the chosen playwrights on marketing and press materials.

24.) Playwrights agree to allow AATE to document, through all methods and media, all stages of the process (photos and recording) for educational, publicity, or any other uses.

25.) By submitting a play, both the host organization and the playwright are giving AATE permission to produce or excerpt the student's play now or in the future and giving permission for the student's script to be made available online for free download for use. This includes its inclusion in any future print/electronic anthologies available for free or for sale to the public.

26.) The announcement date of the winning plays & student selected for the AATE National Playwrights for Change Festival will be made early to mid-May 2027