

# 2020 – 2021 *Fran Abrams Creative Writing Award* Narrative Template

**This template is for your reference only. All applications, work samples, and supplemental materials must be submitted online through SurveyMonkey Apply (SM Apply). AHCMC cannot accept anything by mail or email.**

**\*Please note that there may be formatting differences on the SM Apply grants portal, however the content of the questions will remain as seen on this template. \***

**All required questions are marked with an asterisk (\*). All text responses have a character count that includes spaces.**

Submit this application no later than **Friday, April 16, 2021 at 11:59 p.m.**

## Eligibility Questions

**\*Do you reside in Montgomery County, MD?**

- Yes
- No

**\*Are you able to provide AHCMC with a Social Security Number (SSN) or Individual Taxpayer Identification Number (ITIN) prior to receiving the award disbursement, if awarded?**

- Yes
- No

**\*Are you currently enrolled full-time as a junior in high school for the 2020-2021 school year?**

- Yes
- No

**\*Is your high school a public or private school located in Montgomery County, MD, or are you home-schooled in Montgomery County, MD?**

- Yes, my school is a public high school located in Montgomery County, MD
- Yes, my school is a private high school located in Montgomery County, MD
- Yes, I am home-schooled in Montgomery County, MD
- No, my school is not located in Montgomery County, MD, and/or I am not home-schooled in Montgomery County, MD

**\*Will you be graduating high school in the spring of 2022?**

- That's the plan
- No

## Basic Information

\*Applicant Legal First Name:

\*Applicant Legal Last Name:

Preferred Pronouns: He/Him/His    She/Her/Hers    They/Them/Theirs    Prefer not to answer

\*Address (P.O. Boxes not accepted):

\*City:

\*State:

\*ZIP Code:

\*Phone Number:

\*Email:

Website:

\*Select your creative writing discipline(s). Please check all that apply. If you have any questions about how your work fits within one of the disciplines listed, please reach out to Ana-Alicia Feng, Grants Program Assistant Manager, at [AnaAlicia.Feng@creativemoco.com](mailto:AnaAlicia.Feng@creativemoco.com) or (301) 565-3805 ext. 21.

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Poetry        | <input type="checkbox"/> Creative Nonfiction (Defined as the retelling of factual events and/or people in a dramatic, creative way. <b>For the purposes of this award, research/history papers will not be accepted.</b> ) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fiction       |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Songwriting   |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Scriptwriting | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify):   |

## School Information

\*High School Name:

\*High School Address:

\*City:

\*State:

\*ZIP Code:

\*Current English Teacher:

\*Current English Teacher Email:

## Activities & Relevant Skills (25 points)

- Clearly describes creative writing activities outside of school, additional extracurricular activities, and other obligations, which can include paid work
  - If the applicant does not participate in any extracurricular activities, the applicant should provide a statement explaining why
- Demonstrates interest in developing skills that will serve them in a creative writing or creative writing-related career

**\*Are you involved in any extracurricular activities or other commitments outside of school? Describe your involvement in these activities over the past two years.** Activities can include but are not limited to clubs, creative writing endeavors outside of school, work experience, and/or providing care for family members. Be sure to highlight leadership roles you have taken and honors or awards you have received. If you do not participate in any extracurricular activities or if your participation in extracurricular activities was impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, provide a statement below. (2,500 characters maximum with spaces)

**\*How will these activities enhance your creative writing, or benefit a creative writing-related career?** Describe the skills you have learned from the activities stated above, as well as the kind of skills you think will serve you best to continue studying creative writing. Examples of skills include but are not limited to time management, leadership, problem solving, teamwork, and/or technical writing. (2,500 characters maximum with spaces)

## Career Goals (25 points)

- Demonstrates commitment to the creative writing discipline
- Provides clear statement of goals for a creative writing or creative writing-related career
- Outlines specific steps to achieve the stated goals

**\*What led you to the creative writing field? Describe your background and experience with creative writing.** (2,500 characters maximum with spaces)

**\*What are the goals that you have established to pursue creative writing or a creative writing-related career? Explain the specific steps you have taken, or will take, to achieve your goals.** (2,500 characters maximum with spaces)

## Technical Skills (25 points)

- Demonstrates proficiency in the medium(s) used that are appropriate for an emerging writer
- Provides description of skills and techniques used
- Presents work samples that are appropriately formatted

**\*What skills and techniques did you use in the submitted pieces?** (2,500 characters maximum with spaces)

**\*If selected, what pieces or passages from your work samples would you choose to read, and why?** (2,500 characters maximum with spaces)

## Originality & Creativity (25 points)

- Demonstrates creativity, originality, and strong conceptualization
- Shows versatility by challenging standard clichés, stylistic boundaries, and/or notions of how a concept or emotion can be expressed
- Explains themes and patterns present throughout the work

**\*Describe your creative process.** (2,500 characters maximum with spaces)

**\*What are the key concepts and emotions that you explore through your work samples, and how are they expressed?** How did you conceptualize the submitted pieces? (2,500 characters maximum with spaces)

**\*How do you demonstrate creativity and originality in the submitted pieces?** (i.e., blurring boundaries between styles, challenging creative writing clichés, expressing concepts and emotions in innovative ways, etc.) (2,500 characters maximum with spaces)

## Uploads

**All documents except for work samples must be submitted as PDFs. See work samples for acceptable file formats. Contact AHCMC grants staff for assistance in converting documents to PDFs.**

**\*High School Transcript signed by school guidance counselor** – will not be visible to panelists

- Upload one copy of the applicant's current high school transcript verified by the original signature of their guidance counselor as a PDF document. This signature verifies that the applicant's grades are up-to-date and that they are on track to graduate with a high school diploma in the spring of 2022.
  - Home-schooled applicants may have their current high school transcript signed by their primary instructor if a guidance counselor is not available.
- **Transcripts will only be used to verify eligibility; transcripts will not be sent to the panel and will not be used as part of the evaluation process.**

**\*Home-school notification form, if applicable** – will not be visible to panelists

- All home-schooled applicants must submit a Home-School Notification Form signed by a parent or guardian who verifies that the student is home-schooled and that they comply with Maryland State Department of Education home-schooling regulations.
- **The Home-School Notification Form will only be used to verify eligibility; the form will not be sent to the panel and will not be used as part of the evaluation process.**

**\*Work Sample(s)**

- Upload a **maximum of 10 work samples, maximum 10 pages total**, that are original work, created within the past two years.
  - At least one piece must be work that the applicant would feel comfortable sharing and reading publicly.
  - Check work sample(s) for spelling, grammar, and syntax.
- Applicants may submit work samples for a combination of disciplines.
  - If submitting more than one work sample, upload a cover page with work sample number, title of each work, genre, and year completed.
  - [A template for the cover sheet can be found on the AHCMC website under the "Application" tab by clicking here.](#)
- The work sample(s) must consist of the following:
  - Poetry/Songwriting: Submit no more than 10 poems and/or song lyrics, **maximum 10 pages**.
  - Fiction/Creative Nonfiction/Scriptwriting: You may submit multiple pieces, or an excerpt that is part of a larger piece, double-spaced with 1" margins, **maximum 10 pages**.
  - If the written work sample has a performance component, the applicant has the option of uploading a supplemental sample **in addition** to the written work sample as follows:
    - Video: Maximum 2 videos, 100 MB per file, five minutes combined.
    - Audio: Maximum 2 audio files, 10 MB per file, five minutes combined.
      - Live video or audio hyperlinks can also be placed within a PDF (i.e., a live hyperlink to YouTube within a PDF).
      - If the submitted video and/or audio is more than 5 minutes combined, applicants will be provided with a space to include instructions for which segments the panel should pay attention to. (Ex: Please click on the YouTube hyperlink to watch the video from 0:47 to 4:10)

## ***Fran Abrams Creative Writing Award***

### **Cover Sheet Template**

A Word document and PDF of this cover sheet can be found under the “Application” tab:

<https://www.creativemoco.com/grant/abrams-award/>

\*Put the titles in the order of the actual uploads

	<b>Title of Work</b>	<b>Genre</b>	<b>Year Completed</b>
<b>1</b>			
<b>2</b>			
<b>3</b>			
<b>4</b>			
<b>5</b>			
<b>6</b>			
<b>7</b>			
<b>8</b>			
<b>9</b>			
<b>10</b>			