



The following rules and guidelines are from the Play Slam! and Young Playwright's for Change Competition requirements. Please see the additional **Formatting** and **Play Slam!** guides for more information.

Middle School Division Theme:

"No One is Alone"

High School Division Theme:

"Rise Up!"

Play Slam! Submission Rules

- 1.) **Only plays written by students in Middle or High School will be accepted.**
(Aspiring adult and elementary school writers, please contact the Play Slam! Coordinator to inquire about future opportunities.)
- 2.) **Playwrights must be a student in the Greater Memphis/Mid-South area.**
(Students in the Tri-State area from public, private, parochial, home school groups and more are eligible.)
- 3.) **Playwrights must [submit an application](#) along with their script.**
(So... application and script...check!)
- 4.) **Playwrights must have permission from a parent/guardian to enter the Play Slam!**
(If you are submitted to the Young Playwright's for Change national competition, an additional application with parent approval will need to be submitted.)
- 5.) **Applications and scripts must be submitted either online or in the mail by midnight on February 1, 2021. Please check the Play Slam! Guide or [online](#) for submission info.** *(Mailed in submissions must be postmarked ON or BEFORE February 1.)*
- 6.) **Application materials will not be returned.**
- 7.) **If you are selected as a Finalist or Winner, then you will be invited to attend our Virtual Writer's Workshop on Saturday April 3, 2021 @2pm.**
(The workshop will allow you to meet other writers and actors, read-through the plays, and much more.)
- 8.) **All writers are invited to attend the Play Slam! Digital Play Festival on May 15-16 & 22-23, 2021.**
(Play Slam! is FREE and open to the public. So even if you are not a finalist, then please join us for the Play Slam!)
- 9.) **If your play is chosen as the Winner of the Middle School Division, the Play Slam! Coordinator will work with you and your parent/guardian to submit your script to the Young Playwrights for Change national competition.**
(This will include application submission and potential script edits as needed.)

Play Slam! Script Rules

- 1.) **Plays must be the original work of the playwright and not an adaptation of pre-existing work.**
(You can reference popular literature and entertainment, but it cannot be a re-telling of an already existing story.)
- 2.) **Scripts may not be co-authored.**

- (Let your friends and classmates know they can submit their own scripts.)*
- 3.) **Scripts cannot be submitted to other theatres participating in the Young Playwrights for Change national competition.** *(Represent locally!)*
 - 4.) **Completed scripts must be no longer than 10-minutes when read aloud.**
(Make sure you time this out before you submit.)
 - 5.) **Scripts may have up to, but no more than, six characters.**
(6 characters or less! But actors can play more than one character.)
 - 6.) **Plays must address or relate to the theme of this year's Play Slam!**
(Middle School Division: "Take a Stand" | High School Division: "The World Today")
 - 7.) **Scripts must follow standard American formatting detailed in the Play Slam! [Formatting Guide](#).**
(You can write it in your own style, but your submission must follow these guidelines in order to be considered.)

Play Slam! Script Formatting Rules

Please see the Formatting Guide, which will demonstrate all of these rules.

- 1.) **Scripts must be typed and not hand-written.**
- 2.) **We recommend (but do 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.)
- 3.) **Scripts submitted electronically must be submitted as a Word document.**
(Plays submitted in any other format are subject to rejection from the contest. If you submit a hard copy in the mail you will be required to submit an electronic copy if you are a Finalist.)
- 4.) **Student playwrights must include their name and title of their play on a cover page and nowhere else on the script.**
(This helps us to keep your play anonymous when we submit them to judges.)
- 5.) **Include the title of your play only on the first page, centered at the top. Do not put your title in the header/footer of each page.**
(So...title on cover page and top of the first page of the script.)
- 6.) **Number each page in the upper right hand corner.**
(We don't want to lose your pages!)
- 7.) **List all of your characters at the beginning of your play.**
(This helps a producer/director know how to cast your play)
- 8.) **Mark the beginning of a new act or scene. This should be centered as well.**
(You can write your play as one scene or multiple scenes)
- 9.) **List the full name of the speaking character in ALL CAPITAL LETTERS in the center of the line.**
(This helps separate character names and spoken text.)
- 10.) **Type your script with a space between the last line of one character's dialogue and the name of the next speaking actor.**
(When in doubt, leave space between dialogue.)
- 11.) **Indent Stage Directions and put parenthesis around them. Stage Directions in the middle of a speech must start on a new indented line.**
(Remember, stage directions should be separated from spoken dialogue.)

Play Slam! and Young Playwrights for Change General Guidelines

- 1.) Playhouse on the Square and AATE reserve the right to change any contest rules or guidelines.
- 2.) Playhouse on the Square and AATE reserve the right to accept or reject any play submitted to the contest for any reason.
- 3.) Playhouse on the Square and AATE reserve the right to request changes and revisions from submitted scripts.
- 4.) Playhouse on the Square and AATE may post the names of the chosen playwrights on marketing and press materials.

- 5.) By submitting a play, the playwright gives Playhouse on the Square and 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.

Important Dates

February 1

Play Slam! Submission Deadline

March 1

Young Playwrights for Change Submission Deadline

March 5

Play Slam! Finalists/Winners announced

April 2

Virtual Writer's Workshop @ 2pm

May 15-16

Play Slam! Middle School Division Virtual Festival

May 22-23

Play Slam! High School Division Virtual Festival

July 21-25

AATE's National Conference in Washington, DC (YPC Winner Only)