ENTRY GUIDELINES

1. AIM
The aim of this writing competition is to encourage students to develop their writing skills in a practical way whilst increasing their knowledge and understanding of Spanish-speaking countries.

2. ENTRY REQUIREMENTS
• The contest is open to all Victorian Secondary Schools (VCE or IB programs), Primary schools, playgroups (and kindergarten aged children) and Ethnic schools, both public and private.
• The entry level at which a student is eligible to participate is in accordance with the school year she/he is currently in. (see Divisions below)

**DIVISION A (Playgroup to Year 2):** Students may enter with a drawing, painting or a collage with captions in Spanish including one to two sentences. Paintings without captions are not accepted.

**DIVISION B (Years 3 to 6):** Students may write one of two choices: 1. a poem or 2. an illustrated children’s short story. Short stories without any writing are not accepted.

**DIVISION C (Years 7-8):** Students may write one of three choices: 1. an article, 2. a short story or 3. a poem.

**DIVISION D (Years 9-10):** Students may write one of three choices: 1. an article, 2. a short story or 3. a poem.

**DIVISION E (Years 11-12):** Students may write one of three choices: 1. an informal letter, 2. an article or 3. a diary entry.

3. ASSESSMENT CRITERIA, CONDITIONS AND PROCEDURES
a. The closing date for entries to be received is **Friday, September 11th 2015**.

b. When submitting your entry please ensure that you include a fully completed **Cover Sheet, which includes all your details and exact word count**. The **Cover Sheet** should be filled-in by the author, and then checked and signed by the author’s teacher and parent. Entries with no and/or incomplete cover sheet will not be considered.

c. **Length of writing pieces:**
   - For Division A only: a drawing, painting or a collage with a 2-phrase caption in Spanish. Captions must be related to the piece of Art and reflect the language level the student is competent at.
For Division B only:
- the illustrated story must include between 50 and 100 words in Spanish
- the poem, between 2 and 5 verses in Spanish

For Division C and D*:
- the article must include between 300 and 500 words in Spanish
- the short story must contain between 300 and 500 words in Spanish.
- the minimum number of verses for the poem is 10.

*The topics and writing style should be reflected of the level of complexity expected to be mastered in accordance with the Spanish Language skills required to the specific study level, that is, Division C (7-8) and D (9-10).

For Division E only:
- the informal letter, article and diary entry must include between 250 and 300 words in Spanish.

d. All writing entries must be in Spanish in clear hand-writing or typed. The topic should be relevant to today’s reality in the Spanish speaking world. For example:
- The popularity of Latin American music.
- The importance of learning Spanish.
- Colombian, Mexican, Spanish, Venezuelan cuisine, for instance.
- Life in a Spanish-speaking country.
- The Spanish-speaking communities in Australia.
- Migration from a Spanish-speaking country, etc.

If typed, please include: 12-point sized Arial font at 1.5 spacing. Please, keep a copy of the entry for your own records. Material will not be returned.

e. Pieces of writing must conform to the word limit as specified above and include a bibliography, in the case of articles, to be eligible for a prize.

f. Your entry must be received by Friday, September 11th 2015. The official results, date and place of award ceremony will be advised to your teacher by Wednesday, October 7th.

4. JUDGES

The assessing panel will be drawn from prominent Spanish-speaking representatives from varied academic fields and geographical communities.

5. PRIZES

DIVISION A (Playgroup to Year 2) first Prize $100, second prize $70 and third prize $30

DIVISION B (Years 3 to 6) first Prize $100, second prize $70 and third prize $30

DIVISION C (Years 7-8) First Prize $100, second prize $70 and third prize $30

DIVISION D (Years 9-10) first Prize $100, second prize $70 and third prize $30

DIVISION E (Years 11-12) First Prize $100, second prize $70 and third prize $30
6. INSTRUCTIONS AND CRITERIA FOR PARTICIPATING STUDENTS

**Division A only**: a drawing, painting or a collage with captions from one to two sentences in Spanish. Drawings without writing are not accepted.

1. Before starting to do your drawing, painting or collage, make sure that you know what you want to express. If you are not sure, ask your teacher to explain to you how to start.

2. Before you start to write your captions, you should think carefully about the topic or what you want to say in two sentences and discuss. Your caption must be related to the drawing, painting or collage. **The topic is free but it has to be relevant to the Spanish speaking world and the illustrations should represent the Spanish-speaking world, too.**

3. Remember that your drawing, painting or collage and its related caption must be your own. Your teacher and parent(s) will declare it is a product of your own creativity and use of the Spanish language.

4. Please note that your teacher must fill-in and attach an official **Cover Sheet** to your entry. The **Cover Sheet** must also be checked and signed by your parent/guardian and teacher.

**Division B only**: an illustrated children’s short story between 50 and 100 words in Spanish. Illustrated story without writing are not accepted.

1. Before starting to write your story, make sure that you what structure you follow to write a story. If you are not sure, ask your teacher to explain to you how a story should be written.

2. Before you start to write your story, you should think carefully about the topic for a while and the characters you are going to use to illustrate the story. **The topic is free but it has to be relevant to the Spanish speaking world and the illustration should represent the Spanish-speaking world.**

3. The next step is to plan your story. Remember that a good story should have an introduction, a body and a conclusion. Write a plan, organising all your ideas so that they are all included and fit together in a logical way. You may need to seek assistance at some stage but also remember that **you must write your story in your own words.** As it is an opportunity for you to show your use of the Spanish language you know, do not copy things from books, Internet or magazines.

4. Please note that your story must conform to the word limit as specified.

Please note that you must fill-in and attach an official **Cover Sheet** to your story. The **Cover Sheet** must also be checked and signed by your parent/guardian and teacher.

**A poem between 2 and 5 verses in Spanish**

1. Before starting to write your poem, make sure that you know how to write a poem. If you are not sure, ask your teacher to explain to you how a poem should be written.

2. Before you start to write your poem, you should think carefully about the topic. Any kind of topic is accepted as long as it is relevant to the Spanish-speaking world.

3. **You must write your poem in your own words. It must be your original poem.** You can read a lot of poems in Spanish to get ideas but cannot copy them.

4. Please note that your poem must conform to the length between 2 and 5 verses as specified.
Please note that you must fill-in and attach an official **Cover Sheet** to your poem. The *Cover Sheet* must be checked and signed by your parent/guardian and teacher.

**Divisions C and D: An article: between 300 and 500 words in Spanish**

1. Before starting to write your article, make sure that you know what an article is, what purpose and format they have. The article can be informative, persuasive or evaluative. Your article should have ideas and opinions of your own backed up with evidence and research, where appropriate. If you are not sure about how to write an article with the appropriate characteristic in Spanish, ask your teacher of Spanish.

2. Before you start to write your article, you should think carefully about the topic for a while. **The topic should be relevant to today’s reality in the Spanish-speaking world.** For example:
   a. The popularity of the Latin American music.
   b. The importance of learning Spanish.
   c. Life in a Spanish-speaking country.
   d. The Spanish-speaking communities in Australia.
   e. Migration from a Spanish-speaking country, etc.

   When you think of good points to put in your article, write them down. After a while, you will find that you have collected quite a lot of good ideas for your article.

3. The next step is to plan your article. Remember that a good article should have an introduction, a body and a conclusion. Plan your article, organising all your ideas so that they are all included and fit together in a logical way. Follow your plan while writing your article. **You must write your article in your own words.** Do not copy things from books, Internet or magazines unless it is necessary and proper referencing has been given.

4. Please note that if your article includes material from other sources, then you must include a **bibliography**, which is a list of first-hand sources such as books, articles, research, etc. If you do not know how to write a bibliography, ask your teacher. **Please note that your article must conform to the word limit as specified and you must write the exact word number of your article on the cover sheet.**

Please note that you must fill-in and attach an official **Cover Sheet** to your article. The *Cover Sheet* must also be checked and signed by your parent/guardian and teacher.

**A story between 300 and 500 words in Spanish.**

1. Before starting to write your story, make sure that you know how to write a story. If you are not sure, ask your teacher to explain to you how a story should be written.

2. Before you start to write your story, you should think carefully about the topic for a while. **The topic is free but it has to be relevant to the Spanish speaking-world.** When you think of good points to put in your story, write them down.

3. The next step is to plan your story. Remember that a good story should have an introduction, a body and a conclusion. Write a plan, organising all your ideas so that they are all included and fit together in a logical way. **You must write your story in your own words.** Do not copy things from books, Internet or magazines.

4. **Please note that your story must conform to the word limit as specified.**

Please note that you must fill-in and attach an official **Cover Sheet** to your story. The *Cover Sheet* must also be checked and signed by your parent/guardian and teacher.
**A poem: minimum 10 verses in Spanish**

1. Before starting to write your poem, make sure that you know how to write a poem. If you are not sure, ask your teacher to explain to you how a poem should be written.

2. Before you start to write your poem, you should think carefully about the topic. Any kind of topic is accepted as long as it is relevant to the Spanish-speaking world.

3. **You must write your poem in your own words. It must be your original poem.** You can read a lot of poems in Spanish to get ideas but cannot copy them.

4. **Please note that your poem must conform to the minimum number of verses, that is 10, as specified**

Please note that you must fill-in and attach an official **Cover Sheet** to your poem. The **Cover Sheet** must be checked and signed by your parent/guardian and teacher.

**Division E ONLY - An informal letter, 2. an article or 3. a diary entry. Number of words between 250 and 300 in Spanish**

1. Decide which text type you are going to write. Before starting to compose your piece of writing, make sure that you know how to write an informal letter, an article or a diary entry in Spanish. If you are not sure, ask your teacher of Spanish to explain to you how a particular text type is written in Spanish.

2. Before you commence your piece of writing, you should think carefully about the topic for a while. **The topic is free but it has to be relevant to the Spanish-speaking world.** When you think of good points to put in your piece of writing write them down. After a while, you will find that you have collected quite a lot of good ideas for your piece.

3. The next step is to plan your writing. Remember that a good piece of writing should have an introduction, a body and a conclusion. Write a plan, organising all your ideas so that they are all included and fit together in a logical way. Follow your plan while developing your piece of writing. **You must write your own words as varied tools will be used to judge the originally of the entry.** Do not copy things from books, Internet or magazines.

4. Please note that if your article includes material or ideas from other sources, then you must reference them and/or include a **bibliography**, which is a list of books, articles or other primary sources. If you do not know how to write a bibliography, ask your teacher. **Please note that your article must conform to the word limit as specified and you must write the exact word number of your article on the cover sheet.**

Please note that you must fill-in and attach an official **Cover Sheet** to your piece of writing. The **Cover Sheet** must also be checked and signed by your parent/guardian and teacher.

7. **CLOSING DATE:**

Please complete and submit the attached cover sheet plus your piece of writing to:

Victorian Association for Teachers of Spanish  
Unit 3 / 15 Andrew St. Ringwood. VIC 3134

Your entry must be received by: **Friday, September 11th 2015**
Spanish Language Writing Competition 2015

COVER SHEET

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>STUDENT’S DETAILS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Student’s name:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School’s name:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Is it the same school where the student is studying Spanish?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>If no, indicate at which school the students studies Spanish.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Student’s year level at home school in 2015:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spanish Language-level student is enrolled at:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Corresponding division:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Type of writing (e.g. poem, story, article, etc.):</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Word count:</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TEACHER AND PARENT/GUARDIAN’S STATEMENT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>“To the best of my knowledge, I confirm that this is the student’s own and original work.”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spanish Language Teacher’s name:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teacher’s signature:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parent’s/Guardian’s name:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parent’s/Guardian’s signature:</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Date of entry’s submission: _____day _____/ _____/ _____

Please submit the completed cover sheet plus your piece of writing to:

Victorian Association for Teachers of Spanish
Unit 3 / 15 Andrew St. Ringwood, VIC 3134

Your entry must be received by: Friday, September 11th 2015