



Cochise Cowboy Poetry and Music Gathering: Western Heritage Schools Outreach Program

as of 1 Oct 2018

Criteria for Judging Cowboy Poetry

Grades 3rd through 12th:

- Does the poem reflect the spirit of the West?
- Does the poem have a title, beginning, middle, and end?
- Is the objective or goal of the poem clear? i.e. funny, sad, tragic, teaches a lesson, tells a story or a combination of these?
- Does the poem flow smoothly?
- If the poem has meter/rhythm, is it consistent throughout the poem?
- If the poem has rhyme, does it have a rhyming sequence and is the sequence consistent throughout the poem?
- If the poem has repetition, is it consistent throughout the poem?
- Are spelling and grammar correct or is it obvious that unique spelling or grammar were used in an attempt to reflect cowboy speak, rhyme or rhythm?

Scholarship Poems: All of the above plus:

- Does the poem reflect this year's Gathering theme: "It's Cool to be a Cowboy"?
- Is the poem typed?
- Is the poem written using a specific style or technique that is consistent throughout the poem?
- During the oral performance, is the poem presented in a convincing and enthusiastic manner appropriate for the tone of the poem? Does the poet have the poem memorized?