

The logo for the Armadale Writers' Award is a purple-outlined book shape with the text 'ARMADALE WRITERS' AWARD' inside in white, bold, uppercase letters.

ARMADALE WRITERS' AWARD

A collection of pink line-art illustrations of writing tools including a pen, a pencil, a book, and a pair of glasses, scattered in the top right corner.

Celebrating
West Australian
Adult Writers

Hints & Tips

What are the judges looking for in competition entries?

1. Originality of the premise and how the story is executed.
2. A clear beginning, middle, and ending.
3. Stories which get off to a fast start and stick to the plot.
4. A clear resolution that makes sense and is fitting with the tone of the story.
5. A strong, authentic, and distinct voice. The author writes with a sense of authority or confidence.
6. Using only the necessary details for understanding the situation.
7. Focus on one idea or problem.
8. Only one or two main characters.
9. A balance of light and shade.
10. Clarity of ideas. It should be clear what is happening throughout the story.
11. Stories that have been well edited without errors, inconsistencies, unnecessary repetition or overuse of adverbs.
12. Stories that use descriptions and actions to convey meaning rather than stating information. Show, rather than tell.
13. Factual or unfamiliar information that has been thoroughly researched, and not just made up.
14. A setting that is established and maintained throughout the story with a few brushstrokes, or which is implied through dialogue and action.
15. A good balance of dialogue and description of the action and setting.
16. Include fresh and evocative sensory details as a means of increasing reader immersion.
17. A story that has been set out according to competition guidelines – please read the **How to Enter** section of the **Terms & Conditions** for details about this.

Extra notes:

Create interest by exploring uncommon genres and settings.

Remember - there's no such thing as bad writing, only unfinished writing.