Instructions – Writing Rules

In the beginning, the man painted to tell his stories. Gradually, with the use of symbols or letters, he began to record them. At other times, he gave three-dimensional form to his thoughts, through different types of art; by shaping the clay, carving the stone, painting with the brush, carving with a sharp tool, he created forms and concepts; he described professions, religions, habits. Every find, the work of an often unknown creator today, is the basis of the story you will create. Maybe every ancient find can help us imagine its creator. Maybe it can help us see through the eyes of the artist. We may even find out how they lived during the time these objects were made. It is time for you to describe these thoughts with your own words.

Select the group that fits your age. Select a find and then select one of the literary categories. Your text should be between 200 and 2,000 words. Carefully look at the find you selected. What is your first thought when you see it? There is a hidden story you can discover. There are no right or wrong choices. This is your story. Describe what you feel, what you imagine, try to take your readers back to a distant time, through the corridors of time. In some groups, there are keywords. They are provided to help you, and, in case you want, to use them in your story. You shall not make a simple description. You are creating a new page in the find's history. Each find is a trigger for a story full of imagination and originality. Have fun!

Categories of creative writing

Short story

Novel

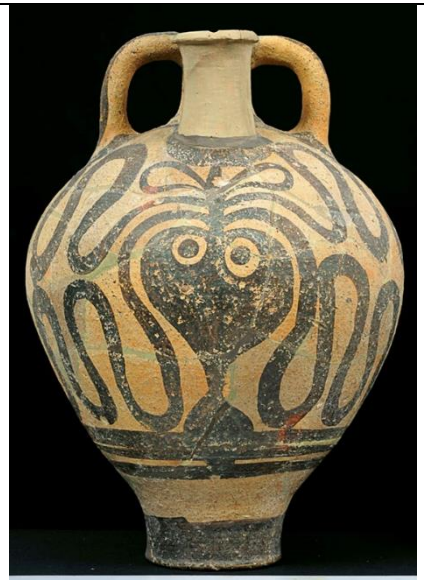
Fairy tale

Poem

Letter

Theatrical play

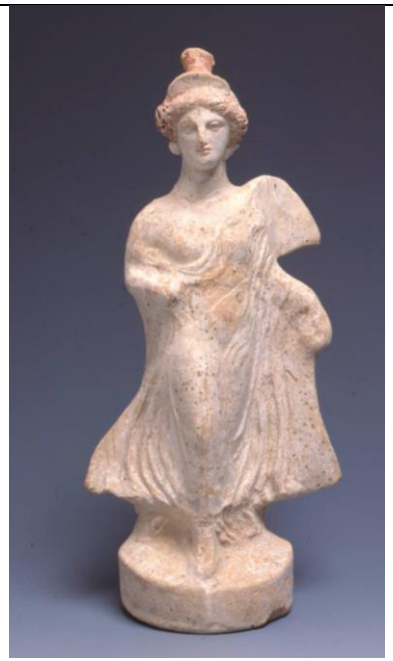
A. Group of finds for participants between the ages of 10 and 13

no.	Photo	Description
A1		Stirrup jar decorated with an octopus, imported in Thebes from Western Crete, and found in the Palace of Thebes (14th – 13th c. BC). Archaeological Museum of Thebes **Keywords:** *vase, octopus, clay, water* **Glossary** *Mycenaean period* (1600–1100 BC): One of the three periods comprising the Bronze Age is named "Mycenaean" after Mycenae in the Argolis, the first ancient city of this period to be excavated. The various eras have been divided into periods to categorise and describe easily common customs and habits of the inhabitants, depending on the area in which they lived. *Trade – imports*: During this period, traders exchanged products, whereas coins were not yet in use. *Stirrup jar*: Large storage vessel with a "fake" – closed mouth and an open one, used to transport liquids.

A2		Wall painting depicting dolphins, from the Mycenaean acropolis of Gla in Copais (13th c. BC). Archaeological Museum of Thebes **Keywords:** *sea, acropolis, Copais, dolphins* **Glassary** *Wall painting*: Painting (fresco) on walls decorating important rooms of Mycenaean palaces. *Copais*: Ancient lake of Boeotia. In the Mycenaean period, drainage works began so that no floods would occur, and there would be a land for cultivation and pasture. From 1880, the area gradually turned into a valley. *Gla*: Mycenaean fortified acropolis of Boeotia, near the modern village of Castro and in Copais.
A3		Boeotian bell-shaped female figurine, from Thebes (first half of 7th c. BC). Archaeological Museum of Thebes **Keywords:** *toy, woman, clay, brush* **Glossary** *Figurine*: Small-sized dummies made of clay, stone (e.g., marble) or wood, used as gifts (offerings) in sanctuaries or burials. *Plangon*: The ancient name for a doll, deriving from the ancient Greek verb *πλάσσω*, which means to create. They were mainly made of clay, wood, fabric, or wax and had movable or painted hands and feet. Only clay dolls have been found since the other materials are hard to be preserved.

		Geometric period: The Homeric Age. Period of ancient Greek history (1050–700 BC) named after the decoration of pottery with geometric symbols. At this time, iron is used more than bronze.
A4		Two-horse chariot figurine with riders, from Akraiphnio (6th c. BC). Archaeological Museum of Thebes **Keywords:** *chariot, shield, horses, clay* **Glossary** *Horseman* (rider): Like the hoplite (ancient soldier of the infantry), the horseman wears a helmet and holds a spear and a shield. *Biga* (*diphros*): chariot pulled by two horses. *Akraiphnio*: Akraiphia (modern Akraiphnio) was an ancient semi-mountainous Boeotian city on the southern end of Copais. *Archaic period* (700–450 BC): The period is characterised by essential reforms, such as the formation of the city-state, and the establishment of colonies and writing. Society, the state, and the arts are changing, and the registration of laws and issuing of coins begin.

A5		Boeotian Kabiric skyphos depicting swans, found in the cemetery of Thespiae (last quarter of 5th c. BC). Archaeological Collection of Thespiae **Keywords:** *vase, grapes, swans, clay* **Glossary** *Kabiroi* (Thebes): Kabeiroi or Kabiroi, according to the Boeotian spelling, were deities of the ancient mystic cult. Kabiroi of Thebes are referred to as Kabiros and Pais (son of Kabiros), to whom Demeter taught the rituals. *Kabiric skyphos*: A type of drinking vase with two handles. The Kabiric skyphoi have a light background and are decorated with various figures and representations. The representations are often satirical, depicting deities, birds and animals or musicians and dancers. *Outline*: Painting style using paintbrushes. *Swan*: In ancient times, many species found in the areas where the artists lived were depicted in arts. Birds are often associated with deities or myths. Sometimes even Zeus took the form of a bird, transforming himself into an eagle, a cuckoo, or even a swan.

A6		Clay figurine depicting Nike, from ancient Tanagra (mid-4th c. BC) Archaeological Museum of Schimatari **Keywords:** *figurine, Nike, jewellery, colours* **Glossary** *Figurine*: Small-sized dummies made of clay, stone (e.g., marble) or wood, used as gifts (offerings) in sanctuaries or burials. *Tanagra figurine*: The *Tanagra korai* are clay figurines deriving from the ancient city of Tanagra in Boeotia that represent mainly noblewomen of ideal beauty and fashion for their time. *Nike*: Ancient deity, daughter of Styx and Pallas. After the prevalence of Zeus during the Titan battle, Nike became his follower. She was the charioteer of the gods and is often depicted winged.

A7		Marble funerary stele representing a dog, found in Boeotia (4th c. BC). Archaeological Museum of Thebes **Keywords:** *stone, dog, friendship, game* **Glossary** *Funerary stele*: A funerary or grave stele is the stone stele that was placed above the graves to mark their location, whereas the information of the deceased was engraved or written on them. *Relief*: Sculptural work of art, with the figures carved on a flat surface. *Dog*: In ancient times, dogs had a respectable place in everyday life. In mythology, many monsters have the form of a dog (Scylla, Charybdis, Cerberus, etc.), perhaps as a reminiscence of the species as it was still wild. After its domestication, it became a useful and valuable companion of man. Dogs are often depicted in similar steles as friends accompanying their master on his eternal journey.

B. Group of finds for participants between the ages of 14 and 17

no.	Photo	Description
B1		Wall painting representing warriors and a building façade, from Orchomenus (14th – 13th c. BC). Archaeological Museum of Thebes **Keywords:** *helmet with boar-teeth, spear, greaves, façade* **Glossary** *Wall painting*: Painting (fresco) on walls decorating essential rooms of the Mycenaean palaces. *Helmet with boar-teeth*: It was made of leather, on which parts of wild boar teeth were sewed. *Boeotian Orchomenus*: City of ancient Boeotia on the north part of Copais, inhabited from the Neolithic period to the present.
B2		Black-figure skyphos showing a young swimmer, from Ritsona (early 5th c. BC). Archaeological Museum of Thebes **Keywords:** *swimming, sea, vase, black-figure* **Glossary** *Black-figure*: A technique used to decorate vases, depicting the figures in black colour on a light coloured background. *Skyphos*: Open drinking vase with two handles. Ritsona: Region of ancient eastern Boeotia, where the city of Mycalessus was located, a short distance from the strait of Euripus.

B3		Attic red-figure lekythos (of the Painter of Bowdoin), with a representation of Artemis (475–470 BC). Archaeological Museum of Schimatari **Keywords:** *lekythos, torches, altar, red-figure* **Glossary** *Red-figure*: A technique for decorating vases, depicting the figures in the colour of the clay (red) on a dark background. *Lekythos*: A closed type vase used for oils. *Names of painters*: Many ancient painters are not known by their real names. In order to make the attribution of ancient works of art to a particular painter possible, conventional names are given, such as the name of the researcher who first identified a painter or that of the area where most of the painter's works were found, etc.

B4		Bronze mirror with a kore statuette, palmetted decoration, and two Erotes. On the upper part, a fox hunting a hare and at the top a sphinx, from Akraiphnio (ca. 460 BC). Archaeological Museum of Thebes **Keywords:** *mirror, Erotes, hunting, bronze* **Glossary** *Mirror*: The object whose surface reflects light rays, thus forming the image that is projected. The most well-known type of reflector is the mirror. Palmette – palmetted decoration: In the arts, the palmette is a stylised floral pattern resembling the fan-shaped leaves of palm trees and is used as a decorative motif. *Kore*: A term used for a specific type of female statues, mainly from the Archaic period onwards, representing standing or seated young women, mortal or goddesses.

B5		Marble sphere with the busts of Sun and Moon in relief, from Levadeia (late 1st c. BC – early 1st c. AD). Archaeological Museum of Chaeronea **Keywords:** *deity, marble, relief, mysteries* **Glossary** *Relief*: Sculptural work of art with the figures carved on a flat surface. *Bust*: Sculptural representation of a human from the chest upwards. *Roman Imperial period* (31 BC – 330 AD): The period of the most significant territorial conquest under the rule of the Roman emperors, following the Roman Republic period. Each region was administratively controlled by the emperor's seat, as well as by local officials. The art incorporates many elements from the Greek tradition. Additionally, the production of marble copies of bronze statues contributed to preserving famous works of art that would be otherwise lost forever.

B6		Clay statuette representing a female figure, from Antikyra (3rd c. BC). Archaeological Collection of Distomo **Keywords:** *clay, statuette, kome (settlement – small village), gift* **Glossary** *Mould*: A mould is usually of stone, and inside it, the shape wishing to reproduce is carved, thus producing large numbers of similar works. *Antikyra*: A seaside town of ancient Phocis (modern NE region of Boeotia). Modern Antikyra was probably ancient Kyparissos. *Hellenistic period* (323–30 BC): The period conventionally begins after the death of Alexander the Great and ends with the Roman domination over the last Hellenistic kingdom, the Ptolemaic (Egypt). It is a period of renewal and expansion of Greek culture in the East. The most significant change of this period was the abolition of the city-state and the prevalence of monarchy and the leagues (political and military associations of cities).

B7		Bone dice, from Thebes (Middle Byzantine times). Archaeological Museum of Thebes **Keywords:** *game, friends, numbers, luck* **Glossary** *Bone objects*: The use of animal bones or ivory continues to the present in making utility or decorative objects. *Kybeia*: The cubes or dices, which were six-sided, made of bone or stone, bearing marks on their sides. *Kybeia* was also the name of the gambling game, while the player was called a *kybeutes* (or *kottistes*).

C. Group of finds for participants between the ages of 18 and 21

no.	Photo	Description
C1		Female clay figurine, from Chaeronea (5600–5300 BC). Archaeological Museum of Chaeronea
C2		Kantharos bearing the representation of a Boeotian shield, from Kamilovryssi (second half of 8th c. BC). Archaeological Museum of Thebes

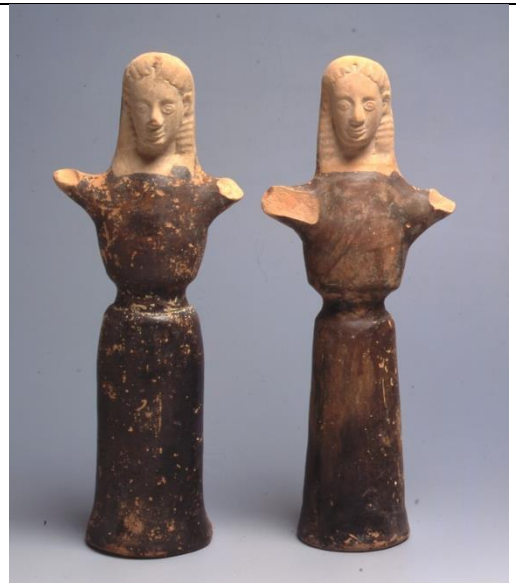
C3		Clay chariot with a pair of female figures (bride and bridesmaid) and a guide (*nymphagogos*, leader of the bride), from Thespiae (6th c. BC). Archaeological Museum of Thebes
C4		Coin hoard with a clay coin bank, from Thebes (burial date: late 2nd – early 1st c. BC). Archaeological Museum of Thebes

C5		Votive relief depicting Heracles receiving the horn of Amalthea (cornucopia) from Pluto, from Thebes (1st c. AD). Archaeological Museum of Thebes
C6		Statuette of Cybele with a drum and a lion, from Thebes (1st c. AD). Archaeological Museum of Thebes

C7		Mosaic floor depicting the personification of July, from Thebes (4th c. AD). Archaeological Museum of Thebes

D. Group of finds for participants of 22 years and over

no.	Photo	Description
D1		Part of a vase bearing an engraved representation of a ship, from Orchomenus (2400–2200 BC). Archaeological Museum of Chaeronea
D2		Clay larnax with the representation of Sphinx, from the Mycenaean cemetery of Tanagra (13th – 12th c. BC). Archaeological Museum of Thebes

D3		Clay figurines of mourners, from the cemetery of ancient Tanagra (590–580 BC). Archaeological Museum of Schimatari
D4		Attic red-figure skyphos depicting a Satyr (of the Painter of Brygos), from Ritsona (ancient Mycalessus, ca. 480 BC). Archaeological Museum of Thebes

D5		Funerary stele of Philotera holding a baby, from ancient Siphai (Tiphai) of Alyki (early 4th c. BC). Archaeological Museum of Thebes

D6		Part of a marble slab depicting the Ascension of Alexander, from Boeotia (Byzantine times). Archaeological Museum of Thebes
D7		Glazed mug representing a hunter (12th c. AD). Archaeological Museum of Thebes