



## 2017 WV Young Writers Contest (YWC) Guidelines for Entries

Teachers and administrators in each county will emphasize writing and encourage students to submit writing for judging, first at the school, and then the county level. Submissions may be on any topic and in any prose genre: fiction, nonfiction, narrative, memoir, or essay. Poetry is not eligible for submission and submissions must be free of graphics. **Entries should be the sole creation of the student, composed during the current school year, and supervised by a teacher.**

Students in private schools within the county district may participate. YWC County Coordinators are encouraged to share this information with personnel at private schools. Winning entries submitted from private schools must be judged at the county level. Home-schooled students may participate, subject to the guidelines and supervision by the county in which they reside.

Leaders from the Central West Virginia Writing Project (CWVWP) at Marshall University will judge entries on the following criteria: Ideas, Organization, Voice, Word Choice, Sentence Fluency, and Conventions.

Entries submitted for state competition at categories below **must not** exceed word length limits:

- Grade 1-2 300 words
- Grade 3-4 500 words
- Grade 5-6; 7-8 700 words
- Grade 9-10 1,000 words
- Grade 11-12 1,200 words

**Schools need to submit entries to County Coordinators by February 6, 2017.** A completed cover sheet must accompany each entry for county judging. Additional directions from individual counties will be forwarded to schools regarding the preparation and submission of entries for judging at the county level. County Coordinators submit winning entries and related documents to the state level contest. **No entries will be accepted from students, teachers, or school personnel.**

State winners will be notified in April, but not announced to the public until Young Writers Day, May 12, 2017, at the University of Charleston. First-place county winners from each of the six contest categories will receive commemorative certificates and be treated to workshops with published authors/presenters on WV Young Writers Day. State winners in each of the six contest categories will receive checks of \$100 for first place, \$50 for second place and \$25 for third place.

Contest forms and submission directions can be found under the CWVWP/YWC website page: <http://www.marshall.edu/cwvwp/young-writers-contest>

and at the West Virginia Department of Education website: <http://wvde.state.wv.us/teach21/YoungWriters.html>.

Questions about the Contest?

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