

WV YOUNG WRITERS CONTEST 2026

Held since 1984, the WV Young Writers Contest is supported with funds provided by the State of West Virginia to Marshall University for use by the Central West Virginia Writing Project (CWVWP). The contest is organized by CWVWP, which is, with housed at Marshall University, with the help of the WV Department of Education

Who May Participate?

Any student in grades 1-12. Students in private schools within the county district may participate. Home-schooled students may participate, subject to the guidelines and supervision by the county where they reside.

Entry Guidelines

Entries submitted for state competition are grouped by the categories below and **must not** exceed the following word length limits:

- Grades 1-2 300 words
- Grades 3-4 500 words
- Grades 5-6; 7-8 800 words
- Grades 9-10 1,000 words
- Grades 11-12 1,200 words

How to submit an entry

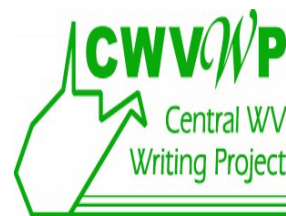
County Coordinators submit winning entries and related documents to the state-level contest. No entries will be accepted from students, teachers, or school personnel.

Winners Receive

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.

Young Writers Awards Ceremony

University of Charleston
Charleston, WV
May 8, 2026



IMPORTANT DATES FOR CONTEST

School Entries
Submitted to county
Coordinators:
February 13, 2026

County level winners
submitted to
Blackboard by:
March 2, 2026

Young Writers Day:
May 8, 2026

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

and at the West Virginia
Department of Education
website:
<https://wvde.us/middle-secondary-learning/ela/student-programs/>

