



West Virginia Writers, Inc. 2023 Annual Writing Contest

CASH PRIZES IN EVERY CATEGORY

FIRST PLACE - \$200 • SECOND PLACE - \$100 • THIRD PLACE - \$50

Competition Category Descriptions

- #__ **Appalachian Writing** (up to 5,000 words) Prose - fiction or non-fiction.
- #__ **Long Poetry** (One poem up to four pages in length) Poetry in any form.
- #__ **Short Poetry** (Up to 20 lines) Poetry in any form.
- #__ **Short Story** (up to 5,000 words) Prose fiction.
- #__ **Nonfiction** (Up to 5,000 words) Prose article, essay, or memoir.
- #__ **Emerging Writers Prose** (Up to 5,000 words) Specify fiction or nonfiction.
- #__ **Emerging Writers Poetry** (one poem up to four pages) *The F. Ethan Fischer Memorial Poetry Award.*
- #__ **Children's Books** Text only. Pictures or illustrations (if included) will not be judged
- #__ **Special Topic: The Pandemic** (up to 5,000 words) Poetry, prose fiction, or non-fiction
- #__ **Social Change** (Up to 5,000 words) *The Pearl S. Buck Award* Fiction, Nonfiction, or poetry on a social change topic.
- #__ **Stage Play** (Up to 30 pages in standard stage play format. If full play is over 30 pages, send additional 1-page synopsis of whole play.) *The Joe McCabe Memorial Script Award.*

PLEASE NOTE: Entry fees for the category below is \$20.

- #__ **Book Length Prose** (Up to 7,500 words and a 1-page synopsis)

NOTE SUBMISSION CHANGES:

We prefer electronic submissions at: <https://form.jotform.com/211688442857063>. Submissions must be in Word format. If you use Google docs. save your entry as a **Word doc**. To pay for your entry, click the link at the end of the electronic entry form. If you must use snail mail, attach your entry form, your check, and your entry (entries) without your name and send all three documents to:

Carter Seaton, Contest Coordinator, 1239 Kanawha Terrace, Huntington, WV 25701.

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

County _____

Phone _____

Email _____

By signing below, I certify I have read and met all eligibility requirements.

Signature _____

Date: _____

If not submitting online, mail to:

WEST VIRGINIA WRITERS, INC.
Carter Seaton, Contest Coordinator
1239 Kanawha Terrace
Huntington, WV 25701

TOTAL # OF ENTRIES: _____ X \$15 = \$ _____

TOTAL # OF ENTRIES _____ X \$20 = \$ _____

LATE FEES (March 15-31, \$5 PER manuscript) = \$ _____

DONATION FOR NEW MOUNTAIN VOICES

STUDENT WRITING CONTEST \$ _____

MEMBERSHIP (Required if not a WV resident) \$ _____

TOTAL ENCLOSED

If mailing, enclose check or money order payable \$ _____
to WV Writers, Inc.

Membership options (check all that apply)

Gold: \$50 ___ Silver: \$35 ___ Adult: \$25 ___

Student: \$10 ___ Under 18: \$5 ___

___ Current Year (July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023)

___ Next Year (July 1, 2023, – June 30, 2024)

___ I am already a member of WVV, Inc.

QUESTIONS? wvcontest@gmail.com
Or Contest FAQ at www.wvwriters.org/contest.html



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OFFICIAL WRITING CONTEST RULES

SUBMISSIONS: We prefer electronic submissions via [the link on the WV Writers website](#).

Submissions must be in Word format. If you use Google docs, save your entry as a **Word doc**.

To pay for your entry, click the PayPal link at the bottom of the electronic entry form.

For mailed entries, fill out and mail this form with your check or money order to the address below. (Credit cards, cash, and electronic payments are NOT accepted for mailed entries.) Only one entry form per person is necessary.

Book Length Fiction entries = \$20 per entry. All other category entries = \$15 per entry. Fees are non-refundable.

DEADLINE: Entries are accepted from January 2 through March 15, 2023 (postmark used for mailed entries).

Late Entry Deadline: If submitted online or mailed between March 16 and March 31, 2023, add \$5.00 fee per manuscript.

ELIGIBILITY: Contest is open to WV residents and current members of WVW, Inc. Entries must be original work of the entrant and must comply with category descriptions, limitations, and procedures. Adaptation of the work of another writer is **not eligible**. Works which have won a cash prize in any past WVW competition are **not eligible**. Published works or those accepted for publication prior to January 1, 2023, are **not eligible**. A work will be considered published if it has been printed in a publication with a distribution of 1000 or more; if it has been published on a webpage that has received or could receive 1,000 or more viewers annually; or if it has been independently published via a print-on-demand or e-book service. If less than 25 percent of the entry has been published, it will be considered unpublished. There is no eligibility age limit.

EMERGING WRITERS ELIGIBILITY: Writers who have never won a cash award in WVW Annual Competition AND who have not been published in a publication with a circulation greater than 5000 copies are eligible to enter this category.

CONTEST GUIDELINES:

- **This contest is blindly judged. The author's name MUST NOT appear anywhere on the manuscript.**
- Indicate the entry category and word count in the upper right-hand corner of the first page.
- All manuscripts must be titled, in standard 12-point font, and double-spaced. Poetry may be single-spaced.
- Manuscripts may be entered in multiple categories, provided the same title is used.
- Submit a separate manuscript and fee for each category you are entering.
- For paper / mailed entries only:
 - Send copies only. Manuscripts are not returned. Entries will be destroyed 30 days after the Awards Banquet.
 - Please staple, paperclip, or binder clip entries.
 - Larger submissions may be placed in a document folder.
 - Entries must be sent through regular mail only. Signature-required mail will not be accepted. Checks or money orders should be payable to WV Writers, Inc.
 - WVW Inc. and Contest Coordinator are not responsible for US Postal Service errors.

JUDGING: Judges will not critique manuscripts. **Entrants may not contact judges during or after the contest.** Any attempt to do so will result in automatic disqualification without refund. **The decisions of the judges are final. WINNERS:** Winners will be announced at WVW Contest Awards Banquet, June 10, 2023 at Cedar Lakes, Ripley, WV and posted on the organization's website. For a list of winners, enclose stamped, self-addressed envelope.