2019-20 Young Southern Student Writers (YSSW) Contest

Sponsored by the Southern Lit Alliance and UTC's Department of English

Contest Rules & Submission Guidelines

THERE IS NO ENTRY FORM for the YSSW contest; however, all entries must follow contest rules, submission guidelines/format, and the correct submission process. Please note that the required format assists us in correctly identifying students, teachers, and schools. Because we anticipate nearly 5,000 entries, we cannot consider entries that do not follow this format. Thanks so much for your help! And good luck to all of our young southern student writers!

CONTEST RULES

1. Eligibility: Students from any school (K-12) in the greater Chattanooga area, as well as home school students, are eligible to enter the YSSW contest. Each entry must be the *original work of the student*, and it must not have been previously submitted to another contest or competition. Submission of the entry is an indication of acceptance of and adherence to these rules. **Teachers must submit at least 5 student entries to be eligible to have a winner. No submissions with fewer than 5 entries will be considered.**

2. Submission: Entries must be submitted **via the online submission process**. Entries must be submitted **by the students' teacher(s).** Visit www.utc.edu/english > "Awards/Contests" to read about and participate in the online submission process.

3. Format: Microsoft Word or Rich Text Format documents. Acceptable file extensions are **.doc**, **.docx** and **.rtf**. Entries MUST be written in English, single spaced, and printed in a standard font (*e.g.*, Times, Times New Roman). No cursive or decorative fonts, please! No illustrations or drawings are accepted.

4. Categories: Entries may be submitted in either or each of the two categories—**prose (fiction or nonfiction) and/or poetry**—at the elementary level (K-5th grade), middle school level (grades 6-8), and high school level. However, students may enter only **one submission per category**. Maximum length for prose entries is 1,000 words; maximum length for poetry entries is 50 lines.

5. Deadline: Entries must be submitted electronically by the students' teachers by the end of the day on **Monday, January 13, 2020**. Entries received after the deadline will NOT be considered.

6. Judges: UTC faculty graciously read and enjoy every submission. UTC English faculty and graduate students read and evaluate all entries on the basis of *creativity*, *content*, and *style* to select the outstanding writer(s) in each category from each school. Judges are instructed to select one winner per every 15 students in each category in each grade. Specifically, grade levels, arranged by school, with 16 or more entries in a category will have two winners; those with 31 or more entries in the same grade level will have three winners.

7. Winners: A winner in each category will be named from each participating school that has at least five entries in that category.

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES and FORMAT

STUDENTS: No title page is required; however, you must follow the format below.

Title (Do not put in quotations marks, italics, or all capital letter.)

[Body of the poem or prose entry. Remember the maximum length for prose entries is 1,000 words; maximum length for poetry entries is 50 lines.]

Required author information must follow the body

Student's Name, Grade:	Jane Doe, Grade 7
Student's School:	Martha Washington Academy
Student's Teacher:	John Smith

TEACHERS: Have your students e-mail their submissions to you. Combine all of your students' submissions into one file (one MS Word document) based on grade level and category. For example, combine all 7th grade poetry submissions in one file (one MS Word document). On the **first page of this file**, include the following information.

Teacher's Name:	Mr. Ed Ucator
Teacher's School:	Martha Washington Academy
Grade Level:	Grade 7
Category:	Poetry
# of Submissions:	18

SUBMIT this one file at the following address:

https://www.utc.edu/english/contests-scholarships-and-awards/yssw-submissions.php

If you teach multiple grade levels and/or are submitting for both categories, you will need to submit separate files based on grade level and category.

YSSW contest winners will be recognized and awarded medals at the YSSW Awards Ceremony on April of 2018. Likewise, winning entries will be featured in an online publication. Teachers of these YSSW contest winners will be notified with more information as we approach the awards ceremony.

Questions: Call the Southern Lit Alliance office at (423) 267-1218 or email Dr. McCarthy at Andrew-McCarthy@utc.edu.

Kindest regards, and best wishes to our area teachers and our student writers!

Andrew McCarthy, Department Head & UC Foundation Assoc. Professor of English
University of Tennessee at Chattanooga