



**TO:** Young Writers County Coordinators

**FROM:** Terry Reale, Reading and English Language Arts Coordinator, WVDE  
Barbara Holmes, Ed.D., Director, Central West Virginia Writing Project & West Virginia Young Writers Contest

**DATE:** December 16, 2009

**SUBJECT:** Young Writers Contest and Celebration

The ability of students to express themselves in writing is a fundamental component of their total education. The twenty-first century demands that our students possess a wide range of writing skills for academic and job success. As our public and private school systems foster the writing process, they can promote the subject of writing through a pro-active approach by undertaking activities as follows:

1. *Emphasize writing throughout the year;*
2. *Publish, display and recognize outstanding student writing;*
3. *Organize the local rounds of the West Virginia Young Writers Contest;*
4. *Encourage students to submit their contest entries at the school, county and state levels.*

Students may qualify for state competition by submitting a winning piece of writing in their county contest in one of six grade levels: Grades 1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8, 9-10 or 11-12. In addition, all seniors' entries are eligible to win the \$750 Barbara W. Walters College Scholarship. Guidelines governing the WV Young Writers celebration are enclosed. As in the past, all entries will first be submitted to you, the Young Writers county coordinator. Then county coordinators will submit county winners' entries in two forms by Friday, **March 19, 2010**. One copy will be submitted to Young Writers *Blackboard* at <http://vista.marshall.edu/muonline>. The directions for submission to the online site are enclosed. The second copy will be sent via mail, as in the past, to Barbara Holmes, Director, Central West Virginia Writing Project, 100 Angus E. Peyton Drive, South Charleston, WV 25303-1600, for final judging at Marshall University Graduate College.

Although winning entries still must be sent for judging as we have always done, adding the entries to WebCT will accomplish two things:

1. Both the county coordinators and we will be able to see if your county's entries are online.
2. The work of each state winner must be submitted to the anti-plagiarism site, Turnitin.com. Having the winners already online will enable us to check the originality of the winning stories, quickly and easily.

County winners from each grade level of county competition will receive special recognition at the West Virginia Young Writers celebration day at the University of Charleston on **May 7, 2010**. State winners will receive \$50 for 1<sup>st</sup> place, \$25 for 2<sup>nd</sup> place and \$10 for 3<sup>rd</sup> place. County winners will receive certificates commemorating their achievement and, along with the county winners' teachers, will be guests of the University of Charleston for the celebration and lunch.

Forms and rules for Young Writers are available on the Central West Virginia Writing Project website at <http://www.marshall.edu/mugc/cwvwp> or the West Virginia Department of Education website at [http://wvde.state.wv.us/instruction/young\\_writers.html](http://wvde.state.wv.us/instruction/young_writers.html).