



DATE: September 2020

TO: WV Young Writers County Coordinators

FROM: Dr. Barbara O'Byrne-Director, Central West Virginia Writing Project

SUBJECT: 2021 WV Young Writers Contest (YWC)

Since 1984, the West Virginia Young Writers Contest has celebrated student writing in the state. The YWC grows out of a deep commitment to writing in all subjects, and to the publishing, displaying, and celebrating of student writing. The Central West Virginia Writing Project and the West Virginia Department of Education are pleased to announce the 2021 contest. The contest will run as it has in the past. However, this year, we will have developed contingency plans for Young Writers Day, May 7, 2021. If the health crisis is resolved, we will celebrate Young Writers Day at the University of Charleston. If this is not possible, we will hold virtual events to celebrate our amazing West Virginia young authors. As we move into spring, we will make a final decision on the format for Young Writers Day.

Students qualify for the state competition by winning their county's YWC in one of six grade categories: 1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8, 9-10, and 11-12. Coordinators will submit winning entries, and related Cover Sheet information electronically to the CWVWP/ Marshall University Blackboard Learning System. In addition, coordinators will submit completed Cover Sheets and Permission Release Forms **by mail** to the address indicated on these documents by **February 22, 2021**. To meet this deadline, schools must submit all entries to the County Coordinator **by February 8, 2021**. Teachers may begin collecting student writing for the contest immediately. Coordinators are responsible for collecting winning school entries as well as submissions from home schoolers and private schools before coordinating efforts to select county winners.

Blackboard usernames and unique county passwords will be sent to County Coordinators by January 19, 2021. Forms and contest guidelines for YWC accompany this memo and are available at:

Central West Virginia Writing Project/Young Writers Contest

<http://www.marshall.edu/cwvwp>

WV Department of Education

<https://wvde.us/middle-secondary-learning/ela/student-programs/>

First place county winners will be invited to participate in the WV Young Writers Day at the University of Charleston or to virtual events on Friday, **May 7, 2021**. County Coordinators will gather and post information on YWD attendees on the West Virginia Department of Education site. Should the county 1st place winner be unavailable to attend, no substitutions will be permitted.

Your willingness to organize the contest in your county allows West Virginia student writing to be honored and celebrated. When you distribute information in the county, please provide teachers and principals with YWC County Coordinator identification and contact information.

Thank you for your participation.

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