

DATE: September 2025
TO: WV Young Writers County Coordinators
FROM: Dr. Maggie Luma, Director, Young Writers Contest
SUBJECT: 2026 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 publishing, displaying, and celebrating student writing. The Central West Virginia Writing Project and the West Virginia Department of Education are pleased to announce the 2026 Young Writers Contest.

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 electronically submit winning entries, and related Cover Sheet information to the CWVWP/ Marshall University Blackboard Learning System. In addition, coordinators will upload completed Cover Sheets and Permission Release Forms **on Blackboard March 2, 2026**. To meet this deadline, schools must submit all entries to the County Coordinator **by February 13, 2026, or by a date set by the county**. Teachers may begin collecting student writing for the contest immediately. Coordinators are responsible for collecting winning school entries as well as submissions from homeschoolers 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, 2026. 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 on Friday, **May 8, 2026**. County Coordinators will gather and post information on YWD attendees on the West Virginia Department of Education site. Should the County first-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.

Maggie Luma



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