

**SWWC Student Enrichment and  
Southwest Minnesota State University  
presents the CREATIVE WRITING CONTEST**



**20th Annual  
Creative Writing Contest**

For Grades 3-12

**Submission Deadline**

January 19, 2024

**Awards Ceremony**

April 21, 2024

[www.swwc.org/cw](http://www.swwc.org/cw)

The **Creative Writing Contest** was established as a partnership between the SWWC Student Enrichment and the SMSU Creative Writing Department to encourage a love of language and writing for students and as a way to recognize the talented young writers in this region. The contest is open to students in grades 3-12.

**Our Partners:**

Southwest Minnesota Arts Council  
Schwan  
Southwest MN Workforce Development Board  
United Way of McLeod County  
United Way of Southwest Minnesota  
United Way of Nobles County  
Agralite Electric Trust  
Federated Rural Electric  
MN Valley Coop Light & Power Trust  
Southwest MN State University  
Marshall Radio

Note: Current partner list as of 8/18/22.  
For the full list of partners go to [www.swwc.org/foundation](http://www.swwc.org/foundation)

**Changes Needed?**

Please notify us of any changes to your email or if you would like to be removed from our contact list.

Contact Andrea at 507.537.2257 or [andrea.anderson@swwc.org](mailto:andrea.anderson@swwc.org)

## How to Enter the Creative Writing Contest

Create a poem, fiction or non-fiction story.  
Follow the Contest Rules AND Contest Guidelines listed below.  
The categories descriptions are listed on the website.  
[www.swwc.org/studentactivities](http://www.swwc.org/studentactivities).

Submit your writings along with an entry form. Form is found on the webpage.

Improve your chances to win by reading “Taboos—Common Writing Errors to Avoid” available on website

### **Contest Rules need to be followed or your entry will not be accepted.**

- Entries **must be** the student's original work and previously unpublished.
- **Entries must be proofread for punctuation, spelling and grammar by teacher or parent.**
- Entry form is an online google submission form.
- A max of three poems, three fiction and three non-fiction entries can be uploaded per student.
- Fees per entries.  
\$5 per three poems  
\$5 per fiction entry  
\$5 per non-fiction entry
- Pay by logging into your PayPal account. Send to [swscpaypal@swsc.org](mailto:swscpaypal@swsc.org) (MUST USE this email or it will NOT go through), enter dollar amount due, enter “Creative Writing & the student's name” in subject area.
- Schools can also pay through a PayPal account or will be billed after the registration deadline.
- All winning entries will be published in an anthology. Please refrain from explicit language or content.
- Keep your electronic version of each entry piece for your records.
- For reference purpose; a PDF of past year's anthologies are on the website.

### **Entry Guidelines**

(must follow)

- Title each entry piece
- Typed on white paper
- 12 pt. Times New Roman font
- 1 inch margins
- No back to back
- **DO NOT** put your name on entries
- No staples, please
- No pictures, images or graphics
- **POETRY:** limit 3
  - Grades 3-12
  - Single-Spaced
  - One poem per page
  - Any poem style or set-up
- **FICTION:** limit 3
  - Grades 3-12
  - Double-Spaced
  - Numbered pages
  - 10 page Maximum
- **NON-FICTION:** limit 3
  - Grades 5-12
  - Double-Spaced
  - Numbered pages
  - 6 page Maximum

### **Awards**

- Students are eligible to receive only one \$2,000 Creative Writing Scholarship per year (junior/senior year). If they have won multiple awards for a maximum of two scholarships, one scholarship may be used during their freshman year and the second one during their sophomore year. The student must be enrolled as a full-time, degree seeking student (minimum 12 credits/semester) at SMSU.
- Gift certificates are given to the 1st place winners from each grade level in each writing category.
- Medals are given to the top three place winners in each grade level from each writing category.
- 1 free copy of the anthology (book) for all place winners.
- A recognition award will be presented to the school with the most place winners.

### **Judging Process**

Entries are screened by SMSU creative writing students who score according to a rubric.

Each entry is scored by multiple student judges.

The entries with the highest scores are submitted to the final judges, faculty in the SMSU Creative Writing Program.

### **Announcing Winners**

After the results are determined: the top three place winners in each category will receive an invitation to the Award Ceremony, which will require an RSVP.

**Awards Ceremony** will be held on Sunday afternoon, April 21, 2024 for all winning students, their families and teachers. This is where place winner results will be revealed. Attire is dressy casual. Additional details will be mailed to finalists at a later date. This year's special guest speaker is **Anna Fitzer**, a writer and artists from Minneapolis.

### **Questions**

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website: [www.swwc.org/cw](http://www.swwc.org/cw)

**SWWC**

STUDENT ENRICHMENT

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