



DR. JEAN MOSEE YOUNG WRITERS CONTEST

The Metropolitan (DC) Chapter of The Links, Incorporated cordially invites students in grades 6 - 12 to participate in the **2025 Dr. Jean Mosee Young Writers Contest**. This program was developed by the chapter in 1982, as the Young Black Writers Contest, after learning about poor test scores in writing among African American high school students. The contest is now open to ***all*** students in sixth through twelfth grades. The purpose of the contest is to encourage writing among middle and high school students, especially students of color, and to publicly recognize their literary talents. Over 2,000 students have participated in the program throughout the years. This year's contest deadline is **February 9, 2025**.

**WE INVITE YOU TO WRITE A POWERFUL STORY, ESSAY, OR POEM(S) ABOUT ONE OF THE FOLLOWING: HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS: CLIMATE CHANGE | WHAT'S ON YOUR MIND | IMPACT OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE
MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS: WHAT'S ON YOUR MIND?**

PRIZES

1st \$500 \$1,000

2nd \$300 \$500

3rd \$200 \$300

Eligibility

Students in grades 6 – 12 that reside in DC, Maryland, and Virginia are invited to participate in the competition category that aligns with their grade. Children of Links are not eligible to enter this contest.

Guidelines

Original and unpublished works should be submitted in **one** of the following formats. Include a short thematic statement with your work.

Middle School

- A. **Poetry** - 1 poem
- B. **Essay** - 1½ pages max. (max. 375 words)
- C. **Short Story** - 2 pages max. (max. 500 words)

High School

- A. **Poetry** - Collection of 3 poems linked by theme
- B. **Essay** - 3 pages max. (max. 750 words)
- C. **Short Story** - 3 pages max. (max. 750 words)

For additional rules and guidelines see Page 2.

Submissions

Submit all entries using our online form at www.metrodclinks.org/young-writers.

Questions? Contact us at STY@metroclinks.org



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2025 Rules & Guidelines

1. Eligibility: Students in grades 6 - 12 that reside in DC, Maryland, and Virginia are invited to participate. Children of Links are not eligible to enter this contest.

2. Submission Deadline: **February 9, 2025 @ 11:59 PM.**

3. Contestants must submit original and unpublished works.

4. Contestants must submit original works in ONE of the following genres: **poetry, essay, or short story.** **A. Middle School Category:**

a. **Poetry** - 1 poem.

b. **Essay** - 1½ pages max.; max. word count of 375.

c. **Short Story** - 2 pages max.; max. word count of 500.

B. High School Category:

a. **Poetry** - Collection of **three (3) poems** linked by a common theme (submit as oneL document). Include a unifying title of the poetry collection, as well as titles for eachL individual poem included in the collection.

b. **Essay** - Three (3) pages max. (no research papers); max. word count of 750.

c. **Short Stories** - Three (3) pages max.; max. word count of 750.

5. Document format instructions – **ALL CATEGORIES:**

A. Submissions should be in **PDF** format.

B. Font: **Times New Roman, 12-point** font size.

C. Paper Size: Letter-8 ½ x 11; Text Color: Black; Spacing: Double. *Poetry may be single spaced*

D. Include title and short artist's statement above your work. **Contestant's last name should be typed in the top right corner of the header of each page.**

E. All pages should be numbered. Cover pages not required.

Include a short artist's statement that provides context and explains what you want your work to express and why it is relevant.

WORKS WITH PROFANITY OR SEXUAL CONTENT WILL BE DISQUALIFIED.

6. All entries must be submitted using our online Entry Form at www.metrodclinks.org/young-writers. If you experience issues using the form online, email STY@metrodclinks.org for support.

7. Completed Teacher Verification form and electronically signed Permission to Publish form **MUST** accompany each entry to be eligible for the contest.

8. Please keep a copy of your entry. Entries will not be returned.

Questions? Email: STY@metrodclinks.org or visit our website at



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Frequently Asked Questions

- **Who is eligible to participate as a writer in the competition?**

The Dr. Jean Mosee Young Writers Contest (YWC) is open to both male and female students currently enrolled in Middle School (6th-8th grade) and High School (9th-12th grade). Those under the age of eighteen will need the written permission of a parent or guardian to participate. All must submit a valid permission to publish document. Please note there are slightly different rules and guidelines for High School students and Middle School students.

- **Who will judge the competition?**

The Metropolitan (DC) Chapter of The Links, Incorporated Services to Youth Facet will select judges. Submissions will be judged taking into account, among other things, creativity, clarity, originality, logical and effective organization, integrated main idea, and grammatical and structural correctness.

- **Who owns works submitted to the competition?**

The student retains ownership of his/her work(s).

- **Will there be awards for the winners?**

Yes, cash and potentially other prizes will be offered to first, second and third place winners in the Middle School category (6th-8th) and in the High School category (9th-12th).

- **What will happen to writer submissions once they are presented to the YWC?**

All submissions will be reviewed by chapter members to ensure that all literary pieces conform to the stated guidelines. Those submissions that do conform to YWC requirements will be submitted to a panel of judges who will score the submissions. The three winning submissions from High School (9th-12th grades) and the three winning submissions from Middle School (6th-8th grade) will receive prizes, certificates of participation, and recognition on The Metropolitan (DC) Chapter of The Links, Incorporated website.

High School winning submissions may be entered in the National Links Young Masters Writers Competition. Winners receive prizes.

- **What is the timeline for submissions?**

For consideration, all submissions must be received by **11:59 PM on February 9, 2025.**

- **Where should submissions be sent?**

All entries must be submitted using our online form at <http://www.metrodclinks.org/young-writers>. If you experience issues using the form online, email entry to: STY@metrodclinks.org. See Rules and Guidelines or

visit our website for more information and to download/submit all forms.