



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WHO: All Acadiana-area students in grades 3-12 who attend public schools, private schools, charter schools, and homeschools

WHAT: Festival of Words Student Creative Writing Competition

WHEN: Final Deadline for online submissions via e-mail is Monday, October 19, 2026, by 11:55 p.m.

The Festival of Words event will be held in Grand Coteau, LA on November 6-7, 2026.

All entrants are invited to attend the festival. Contest winners will be announced on Friday, October 30, 2026, and will be invited to read their original writing pieces on Saturday, November 7, 2026.

CONTACT: Dr. H. Michelle Kreamer, hmkreamer@louisiana.edu

Email Submissions to: nwpacadiana@gmail.com

Students in grades 3-12 from across the Acadiana-area are invited to participate in a writing competition sponsored by the National Writing Project of Acadiana and the Festival of Words. Students can enter their original writing in four (4) categories: poetry, fiction, multimedia, and advertisement. Writings should be submitted through a supervising teacher or school facilitator online by sending them to nwpacadiana@gmail.com. Parent/guardian permission must be granted by filling out the student writing contest entry form. The supervising teacher or school facilitator should submit these forms electronically by the submission deadline as well. Awards will be given for first, second, and third place winners. Competition winners will also receive a digital anthology of winning entries.

Please feel free to contact Dr. H. Michelle Kreamer, Writing Competition Coordinator for the Festival of Words Student Creative Writing Competition at hmkreamer@louisiana.edu if you have questions or concerns.

HAPPY WRITING!



2026 Student Writing Competition

Rules and Guidelines

Entries must be received by Monday, October 19, 2026, by 11:55 p.m.

Winners will be announced Friday, October 30, 2026

General Guidelines:

- This competition is co-sponsored by the National Writing Project of Acadiana and is open to 3rd - 12th grade writers from across Acadiana.
- Each student may enter the competition one time in each category (up to 4 entries total).
- All work must be original, and students must sign a pledge of originality (included in the entry form) NO AI.
- Work must be typed in Times New Roman 12 pt. font and should be submitted as a Word Document (with the exception of visual or audio submissions in the multimedia and advertisement categories).
- The file for each student entry should be saved as the student's first initial and last name followed by the category (ex. MKreamerPoetry).

Categories for Submission:

- The categories for submission include: 1) poetry, 2) fiction, 3) multimedia, and 4) advertisement writing.
 - **Poetry:** Poems may not exceed 50 lines in length (multiple poems may be submitted but the total length cannot exceed 50 lines).
 - **Fiction:** Fiction entries may not exceed 1,500 words in length (500-1,500 words recommended).
 - **Multimedia:** 2026 Theme: This year submissions in the multimedia category should fit the theme of *American Creed*. This theme focuses on people striving to realize their own visions of America's promise and embraces the idea that what unifies America is a set of foundational national ideals.
 - The following submission types will be accepted for this category: scripted podcast, short film or play, comic book, photo essay, or song. There is a four-minute limit for video or audio and a four-page limit for all other submissions in this category.
 - **Advertisement:** This submission can be a script for a radio or television advertisement or can be a visual ad. Advertisements can either be for: 1) an existing product or 2) a service, idea, or new product. For both types of advertisements, submissions need to include a paragraph explanation describing why the product needs a new advertisement or why this new product/service/idea is needed.

How to Submit:

- Entries must be submitted electronically through a supervising teacher/facilitator. Entry forms with parent/guardian permission should be submitted electronically as well.
- Teachers/facilitators should ensure that a student writing competition entry form is filled out for each submitted entry which requires parent and student signatures. Hard copy forms should be held by each submitting teacher/facilitator and copies should be submitted electronically.
- Submit entries electronically to:
 - Dr. Michelle Kreamer, Writing Competition Coordinator for Festival of Words Student Creative Writing Competition at nwpacadiana@gmail.com

Other Information:

- First, second, and third place winners will receive awards and a digital anthology of winning entries (will be distributed at the Festival of Words or delivered to teachers). Winners will be invited to read their pieces at the Festival of Words event on Saturday, November 7, 2026 (exact time TBD).
- Please contact Dr. Michelle Kreamer if you have any questions: hmkreamer@louisiana.edu (preferred contact method) or by calling (337) 482-5781.



2026 Festival of Words Student Writing Competition Entry Form & Parent/Guardian Permission

Note: Parent and student signatures are both required (e-signature is acceptable). A copy of this form is required for each entry into the competition. Students can enter each category once. Submit form(s) to supervising teacher/facilitator who will submit forms electronically.

Name: _____

Grade: _____

Category of submission (Please place “X”):

Poetry: _____ Fiction: _____ Multimedia: _____ Advertisement: _____

Title of piece: _____

Parent/Guardian Name: _____

Parent/Guardian E-mail: _____

Parent/Guardian Contact phone number: _____

School: _____

Supervising teacher/facilitator: _____

Parent/guardian name (print): _____

I, _____, being the parent or guardian of the
(signature)

above-named minor, give my permission for him/her to participate in the Festival of Words Youth Writing Competition and understand that if this entry is selected as a winner it will be published in an anthology of winning works and shared on the Festival of Words website.

Student pledge of originality: I promise that the work I am submitting online to the Festival of Words Youth Writing Competition is my own original work and was not produced with the aid of AI.

Student Signature: _____