



2025 APPALACHIAN SCHOLARS CONTEST

*Open to all WVU undergraduate students. Please use your WVU Mix email to access the submission form.

[Submit Here by October 3, 2025](#)

Ask a question. Tell a story. Solve a problem. Raise awareness. Research. Explore. Connect.
We want to celebrate the diverse voices and scholarship of WVU students.

The **Appalachian Scholars Contest** invites submissions across multiple categories, showcasing creativity, research, and storytelling. Whether through a poem, a scientific blog, a personal narrative, or a research paper, we encourage you to share work that connects with regional audiences in Appalachia.

All submissions should be **relevant to Appalachia by centering on topics or issues that impact the region.**

Categories for Submission

- **Creative Works**
 - **Poetry** – Original poems reflecting culture, landscape, personal experiences, and perspectives relevant to the Appalachian region and audience.
 - **Short Fiction** – Compelling short stories exploring character, place, and theme relevant to the Appalachian region and audience.
 - **Narrative (Creative Nonfiction)** – Personal essays or memoir-based writing relevant to the Appalachian region and audience.
- **Research & Scholarship**
 - **Scholarly Writing** – Research essays in your academic field that are relevant to the Appalachian region and audience.
- **Share Your Science** – STEM-based submissions on topics relevant to the Appalachian region and audience.

ELIGIBILITY. Each current WVU undergraduate student may submit **ONE** entry that originated in their academic or creative work at WVU. Submissions must be unpublished and not previously recognized with an award.

DEADLINE. Friday, Oct 3, 2025

PRIZES and RECOGNITION

The first place in each category (Creative Works - Research & Scholarship - Share your Science) will receive \$300 (applied to the students' accounts) and an awards certificate.*** Winners will also be [featured on the SpeakWrite website](#) and recognized during Mountaineer Week.

GUIDELINES AND CRITERIA. SpeakWrite questions related to purpose, audience, conventions, and trouble spots (**PACT**) can apply to any type of writing. Those core questions are at the heart of the SpeakWrite™ initiative, and they also inform the criteria for judging entries to the Writing Appalachia contest.

- **Purpose:** The entry studies, explores, or represents some clear aspect of the topics or issues that impact the Appalachian region.
- **Audience:** The writing is mature, thorough, and well suited for a diverse audience. That audience might include not only members of the WVU community, but also residents from around the country, state, and region as well as alumni, friends, and families.
- **Conventions:** The entry should be original, engaging, and **between 1000 and 2500 words for prose pieces. Creative works can be shorter. Scholarly papers should include a brief abstract.** In all submissions, the style is clear, readable, and grammatically correct. The entry meets the **October 3 deadline.**
- **Trouble-spots:** Have you considered what could get in the way of your goals? Have you kept the audience in mind? Have you considered the level and selection of detail? What structure is best? What about elements of style? Do you need to cite any sources? Other trouble spots could include content that is not original, is incomplete, not fully developed, or is compromised by major errors that disrupt or distort meaning.

We encourage you to work with a faculty mentor before you submit your final piece.

***Note: If you are a winner of the contest, the award funds will be applied to your student account.