

The Writers Matter Writing Competition— 2026

Submission date: February 7, 2026

Theme: A Path Forward – Healing, Unity and the Future.

Prizes: First place: \$500 per team

Second place: \$250 per team

Third place: \$150 per team

Plus: publication, travel opportunities and more!

We encourage all writers to harness your powers of imagination, imagery, emotion and empathy, to co-write a piece that you believe embodies this year's theme: A Path Forward – Healing, Unity and the Future . If you do not yet have a partner, you can request to be matched up with a fellow writer.

Competition guidelines:

- The competition is open to students aged 13-19 anywhere in the world.
- The piece should reflect the theme and the overall goal of peace writing, but beyond that the writers have full freedom in what and how to write.
- Submissions can be poems or prose, with a minimum of 250 words and a maximum of 2000 words.
- Submissions **must** be by a team of two writers of different national or religious backgrounds.
- To find a writing partner, fill out the form: <https://forms.gle/Lp4CzFJ9jn1CztjQ9>
- All submissions must be submitted by email to: debateforpeacemun@gmail.com by February 7, 2026 (11:59 pm) Jerusalem time, and include the full names and ages of writers, final version of the piece with title, and phone number.
- A panel of judges will read and evaluate each submission, considering creativity of ideas, quality and force of writing, teamwork, and contribution to the theme.
- Winners will be presented at an award ceremony in February and split cash prizes.
- All participants whose contributions meet the guidelines will receive certificates of participation. Select Honorable Mentions may also be invited to publish their pieces as blog posts or in book form.
- To sign up for a free Writers Matter course, fill out the form here: <https://forms.gle/WMKotQCtTTa8A4MdA>

More about Writers Matter

Writers Matter was founded by Professor Robert Vogel to empower students through creative writing and personal expression. Writers Matter projects, including writing workshops, courses, competitions and even book publications, encourage students to share personal stories with each other, listen to other voices, and develop effective personal relationships with peers to provide more tolerance and appreciation of others. See more here: <https://www.writersmatter.org/>