

20<sup>th</sup> Annual

# 2026 Celebrate the Arts WRITING CONTEST

Writers . . .

You're invited to share your creativity in this contest for all ages.  
Enter your personal writing, your child's or your student's.  
See your writing in a published book on the library shelf.  
Compete to win great prizes!



## GUIDELINES

- Any genre (short story, poem, comic strip, etc.) and on any topic. Each entry must have a TITLE. ARTWORK (limit 2 pages) should be comics (not in gray pencil due to scanning difficulty). Submit scan of comic. No illustrations or paintings should accompany writing submissions.
- Up to 800 words per author. If more than one entry is submitted, the total may not exceed 800 words.
- Wording and theme must be appropriate for all ages.
- Original work only. By entering, the author affirms that no AI, ChatGPT, etc. has been used.
- Entries must include Author's Name, Address, Email, Phone and Category: Grades K-2 | Grades 3-5 | Grades 6-8 | Grades 9-12 | Adults ages 18 and older.
- Teachers are asked to provide student contact information when possible.
- Submit writing as a Microsoft Word or Google doc, 8.5" x 11" portrait, 10-point type, and Arial font.
- No out-of-state entries. Library staff members and Arts Council members are not eligible for judging but may submit work for publication in the Writing Contest book. Family members are eligible.

## BECOME AN HONORED WRITER

- All entries will be published in a professionally bound book for purchase. Artwork will be printed in black & white. The Arts Council reserves the right to exclude any entry from the Writing Contest book.
- Awards will be presented at a reception to honor writers and families on Sunday, April 12.
- First place winners in each grade/age category will have their photo and writing published on the Arts Council's website.

## PRIZES

- Winners will be announced the first week in April. The 1st, 2nd, 3rd place and Honorable Mention prizes for the grade/age categories include book selections, Friends Shop gift certificates, Columbus Museum of Art tickets, writing journals and surprises. Each winner will receive a copy of the Writing Contest book compliments of the Friends of the Library.

## HOW TO ENTER

- **Digitally:** Submit your writing to [artscouncilwesterville@gmail.com](mailto:artscouncilwesterville@gmail.com)
- **OR** mail to Westerville Public Library, Attn: Writing Contest, 126 S. State St., Westerville, OH 43081
- **OR** stop by the Westerville Public Library to drop off at the desk in the kids area.

**Deadline: Saturday, March 1, 2026**

Questions? Email [artscouncilwesterville@gmail.com](mailto:artscouncilwesterville@gmail.com) or call the Westerville Public Library at 614-882-7277 ext. 2295.

