



Council for Wisconsin Writers, Inc.

Promoting Awareness of Wisconsin's Writers Since 1964

2015 Essay Award for Young Writers Contest Information and Submission Guidelines

About the CWW

The Council for Wisconsin Writers (CWW) is a nonprofit, membership organization dedicated to promoting local, state, and national awareness of Wisconsin's great literary heritage and to encourage excellence among today's Wisconsin writers.

Founded in 1964, the CWW is operated entirely by volunteer writers, editors, publishers, book sellers, and other supporters who serve on its board of directors.

The CWW sponsors an annual writing contest open to Wisconsin authors whose work was published during the preceding year. The contest awards cash prizes to writers in eight categories including poetry, prose fiction, nonfiction, children's writing, and outdoor writing.

To learn more about the Council for Wisconsin Writers and the yearly writing contest, visit our web site at www.wiswriters.org.

About the Student Writing Contest

The Essay Award for Young Writers recognizes Wisconsin high school students who excel at the craft of writing nonfiction literature. Any Wisconsin high school student may enter the contest by submitting a piece of writing according to the guidelines below. All entries will be read and judged anonymously by the CWW Board of Directors. The judges will select one winner and one honorable mention. The winner receives **\$250**. Winners, honorable mentions, and their sponsoring teachers (if applicable) are invited to attend the CWW Awards Luncheon as our guests.

Submission Guidelines

- To be eligible, you must be a Wisconsin high school student at the time that you wrote and submitted your entry.
- An entry is a single work of prose nonfiction up to 1,500 words. Examples of nonfiction genres include essay, memoir, humor, travel writing, and literary journalism.

- A student may submit one entry.
- Students may not enter work that has been published in commercial newspapers, magazines, and journals.
- Fictional elements are not allowed. An entry may not contain fictional characters, dialog, or situations. Although fiction is not permitted, students are encouraged to make use of all other techniques of creative writing including vivid descriptions, compelling narrative, strong characters, and poetic style.
- All entries must be typed according to the formatting guidelines listed separately.
- Entry forms and other contest materials are available on the CWW web site: www.wisconsinwriters.org.
- Students may submit their entries directly to the CWW or through a participating teacher.
- Entries may be submitted by mail or email. Email entries must be in the form of a Microsoft Word document. Note that hard copy entries will be recycled and not returned.
- The contest deadline is **February 1, 2016**. Entries received after that date will not be accepted.

To submit a contest entry:

1. Fill out the entry form. For a hard copy entry, fill in the blanks by printing legibly. For an email entry, type in the information using Microsoft Word.
2. Complete your entry form by signing your name (for a hard copy submission) or typing your name (for an email submission) at the bottom. Entries without a handwritten or typed signature in this space will not be accepted.
3. Submit your entry by mail or email:
 - To submit a hard copy of your entry by mail, place it in an envelope along with the entry form, attach sufficient postage, and mail it to the following address.

CWW Essay Award
c/o Geoff Gilpin
6973 Heron Way
De Forest, WI 53532
 - To submit an entry by email, attach it and the entry form (both as Microsoft Word documents) to an email message with the Subject "CWW Student Contest" and email it to Geoff Gilpin at cwwaward@geoffgilpin.com.



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2015 Essay Award for Young Writers Information for Teachers

Teachers are encouraged to use the CWW contest as a tool to help students discover literary nonfiction and improve their writing skills. Teachers can participate in several ways.

They can use the contest as a class project in which all students write an entry. They could also announce the contest in class and encourage students to participate without further involvement.

As noted in the submission guidelines, students have the option of submitting their work independently or through a participating teacher. A teacher who wishes to participate in the submission process can collect entries from a class and mail or email them to the CWW according to the guidelines.

The goal of the CWW is to receive entries from all interested students. Therefore, we request that teachers who are submitting entries from their students do so for everyone without any judging or selection.



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2015 Essay Award for Young Writers Formatting Guidelines

- An entry is a single piece of prose nonfiction up to 1,500 words.
- The entry must have a title.
- The entry must be typed double-spaced using Times Roman 12-point type.
- Each page of the entry must have a one-inch margin around the top, bottom, and sides of the page.
- The first page of the entry is the entry form that includes the following information:

Title of entry

Student author's name

Student's year in school

Student's address

Name and city of student's school

Student's telephone number

Student's email address

Name of sponsoring teacher (if applicable)

Sponsoring teacher's telephone number (if applicable)

Sponsoring teacher's email address (if applicable)

Student's signature (handwritten or typed)

- The text of the entry, beginning with the title, starts on the page after the entry form.
- Except for the entry form cover page, every page must contain a header with the title followed by a page number and the total pages.