



**Warren County Consortium for Student Enrichment (WCCSE)**  
**Young Writers' Competition 2023.2024**

**Rules and requirements for entries:**

1. **Any WCCSE member may select and submit up to five total pieces from their school, and no more than one piece per student** in any of the genres listed below. Teachers who teach more than 50 students may submit pieces up to 10% of the total number of students taught, with a maximum of 10 pieces. Teachers should select the pieces they consider “best of the best.”

**Teachers who are not a part of the WCCSE should follow the same submission guidelines, and mail a \$20 registration fee (per 5 entries) to submit their students' work. Please see address and payment instructions at the end of the Cover Sheet guidelines.**

2. **Kindergarten through high school students are eligible to enter.** Judging will be held in the following grade categories: 1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8, 9-12. All kindergarten entries will receive certificates of recognition only. Kindergarten writing may be handwritten.
3. **All writing must be original. Artificial Intelligence MAY NOT BE USED.** Pieces that have been submitted for other competitions are acceptable. Each entry must be edited by the student and teacher and should be error free, neatly typed, double spaced, on 8.5 by 11 paper, with one-inch margins on all sides. Please type entries in 12-point font or larger- black ink only.
4. **The maximum length for poetry is 40 lines. The maximum length for short stories, personal narratives, and essays is 2,000 words.** Any works exceeding these lengths will not be considered by the judges. There is no minimum length requirement.

5. **Digital format: All entries must be in a PDF file. The corresponding cover sheets should be in a separate PDF file. See naming conventions below.** Please remove identifying information from the entries before you send them.
  
6. **Naming files:** Your entries will be easier to organize if everyone follows the same naming conventions. Please follow this format for naming the files with your students' entries:
  - Keyword from title of the piece (1 or 2 words)
  - Grade level (a number from K to 12)
  - Type of entry: ss (short story), po (poem) es (essay), pn (personal narrative)**For example, rainbow3po** would be a **poem** from **grade 3** with the word **rainbow** in the title; **bailey6pn** would be a **sixth-grade personal narrative** about a **dog named Bailey**. Please use a keyword from the title rather than your student's name or your name. Hopefully, each entry will have a unique name, and we can easily organize them in folders by grade level and genre. Please do not send more than one entry with the exact same name. If necessary, select a different keyword.
  
7. **A cover sheet is to be completed and included in a separate PDF file in the email with each entry.** All identifying information should appear on the cover sheet. Cover sheets should include the word cover + the same filename as the entry. For example, the cover sheet for the rainbow poem above would be **coverrainbow3po**. Both PDF and Word versions of the cover sheet are available as attachments to this email and will be posted on the WCCSE website.
  
8. To be considered, please email entries to Maggie Devine at [devinem@warrenhills.org](mailto:devinem@warrenhills.org) no later than **Friday, January 19, 2024**. Entries received after that date will not be accepted.

### **Categories for Grades K-12:**

**Poetry, Short Story, Personal Narrative, Essay.** See notes defining these categories below.

### **Recognition for Participation:**

**All** participants will receive certificates of participation.

Winners in 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, or 3<sup>rd</sup> place in each genre will receive an award. The winners, and their teachers, will be notified by early March. Please direct any questions about the competition to Maggie Devine by email: [devinem@warrenhills.org](mailto:devinem@warrenhills.org).

**NOTES ON CATEGORIES:**

**Poetry:** Poetry may be written in any form (haiku, sonnet, rhyme, free verse, etc.)

**Personal Narrative/Memoir:** A literary nonfiction narrative focusing on a particular event or aspect of the writer's life, written in first-person point of view. Common ideas for this category are childhood stories, life-changing events, and memorable experiences.

**Short Story:** A short work of fiction in which the main character must face a problem and come to a resolution. Historical fiction in the form of a diary entry is also included in this category.

**Essay:** A literary composition on a single subject or discussion, sometimes representing the personal views of the author. Examples include personal reflections, persuasive/argumentative pieces, biographies, literary criticism and informational writing.

**WCCSE reserves the right to move incorrectly marked pieces of writing into the correct category based on the descriptions above.**

**2023.2024 WCCSE Young Writers' Competition**

**Cover Sheet**

This form must accompany each entry and be postmarked **by January 19, 2024**.  
Please read descriptions of the categories on the previous page.

**Form of Writing** (circle one):

**Poetry**   **Personal Narrative**   **Short Story**   **Essay**

**Entrant's full name- first and last:** \_\_\_\_\_

Please check spelling! **Name MUST NOT** be included on the writing piece!

**Grade level:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Title of piece:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Code used to identify piece (ex: rainbow3po):** \_\_\_\_\_

**Number of words (for Short Story, Essay or Personal Narrative):** \_\_\_\_\_

**Entrant's home phone number:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Entrant's home address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Entrant's (or parent's) email:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Teacher's first and last name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Teacher's school phone:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Teacher's email:** \_\_\_\_\_

**School and District:** \_\_\_\_\_

**School address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**WCCSE member's name (if applicable):** \_\_\_\_\_

\*\*\*Please **submit a Cover Sheet with each writing piece you submit**, making sure that the student's name has been removed from the writing piece and is only on the Cover Sheet.

**Please email entries and cover sheets by **January 19, 2024****, to: Maggie Devine, WCCSE at devinem@warrenhills.org

\_\_\_\_\_ **Please check here if you are not a WCCSE member.** If you have checked this box, a \$20 registration fee (per 5 entries) should be mailed to Maggie Devine at the address below **by January 19th** for your students' work to be considered.

Checks should be made payable to:

**“Warren County Consortium for Student Enrichment”  
(WCCSE) not Warren Hills.**

**Mail to:**

Maggie Devine, WCCSE  
Warren Hills Regional High School  
41 Jackson Valley Road  
Washington, NJ 07882