

MCEF 2022

CREATIVE WRITING & POETRY CONTEST OFFICIAL RULES

1. This contest is open to students in grades 2-12 who attend Montgomery County Public Schools.
2. **Entries must relate to the contest theme, “Creating the future, Celebrating the Past”, and may not exceed 500 words.**
3. **All entries, whether mailed, emailed, or shared electronically, must be received by 5:00 pm, Friday, March 18th, 2022. Electronic submissions must be PDF only, no video submission will be allowed.**
4. Entries and Official Entry Forms must be submitted in one of the following ways:
 - a. By email to info@montcoef.org (**preferred method**). Entries and Official Entry Forms must be attached as separate PDF files.
 - b. By Google sharing to montcoef@mcps.org. Entries and Official Entry Forms must be shared as separate PDF files.
 - c. By MCPS internal “pony” mail to “MCEF” at “SBO”. The student’s teacher or school main office must send the entry by this method.
 - d. By mail to
MCEF Contest
750 Imperial St.
Christiansburg, VA 24073
5. Students may submit more than one entry, but may only place once. An Official Entry Form must be included for each entry and each must be in a separate file.
6. Previous 1st Place winners are not eligible for 1st Place in the same age category, but are eligible for any prize once they age up to the next age category.
7. All prize-winning entries will be displayed at the MCPS Central Office, 750 Imperial St., Christiansburg, VA., once the winners have been announced.
8. 1st Place winners will be recognized at a Montgomery Co. School Board meeting when conditions allow.
9. 2nd and 3rd Place prizes and award certificates will be sent to the student.
10. Honorable Mentions may be awarded at the discretion of the judges, will be displayed with the winning entries, and will receive an award certificate, but do not earn any prizes.
11. Names and pictures of the winners will be displayed on the MCEF website. **A parent or Guardian must sign the Official Entry Form. Electronic signatures will not be accepted.**
12. Winners will be selected by a panel of local judges consisting of college professors, published writers, and public school teachers.
13. All entries must be accompanied by a completed and signed Official Entry Form.
14. **The student’s name should not appear anywhere on the submitted piece, only on the Official Entry Form. All submissions with names on them will be disqualified.**
15. Students should not submit any artwork with the entry.
16. Entries will not be returned to the students.
17. Entries containing profanity or any content deemed inappropriate by the judges will be disqualified.
18. This contest is not intended to be a classroom assignment.
19. Only winners and honorable mentions will be notified directly by MCEF staff. Results will be displayed on the MCEF website at www.montcoef.org once the winners have been notified.
20. **The MCEF will not be held responsible if you enter an incorrect email or phone number on the entry form.** We will attempt to contact the winners by email and phone listed at least three times. If we do not hear back from the winners or their parent’s/guardians by **Friday, April 22nd** we will award the prize to the next winner on the list. If MCEF is contacted after this date the winner will still receive a certificate and be recognized by the School Board but will not receive the prize. There will be no exceptions.