

DMACC District Wide Creative Writing Contest
Instructions and Rules 2024-2025

Deadline: Friday, December 6, 2024 at 5 pm

Prize Information

Students can win either a DMACC scholarship or cash prizes.

Scholarship Writer: \$1,000 scholarship for DMACC (starts summer 2025)

Scholarship Runner-Up: \$500 scholarship for DMACC (starts summer 2025)

Short Story First Place: \$100 cash

Short Story Second Place: \$50 cash

Short Story Third Place: \$25

Poem First Place: \$100 cash

Poem Second Place: \$50

Poem Third Place: \$25

- DMACC scholarship: \$1,000 and \$500 are awarded to the top two writers, consider each of their submissions. Students interested in competing for the scholarship prizes are highly encouraged to submit three pieces.
- The scholarship may be used for the summer of 2025 or the fall of 2025 only.
- Scholarships are for DMACC only and cannot be transferred to another college. Please only opt for a scholarship if you plan on attending DMACC after the spring of 2025. Note: winning a scholarship may impact a student's financial aid package.
- Entries are judged by a panel of DMACC English instructors from across the district.
- Cash Prizes: The top three short stories/creative non-fiction and poems are awarded \$100, \$50, \$25.
- Publication: Winning works are published in *Expressions*, DMACC's student literary magazine. Students retain rights to their work. Students who do not wish their work to be published in *Expressions* should not participate in this contest. Students who wish to remain anonymous should not participate in this contest.

- Literary Festival Reading: Winners of this contest read their work in front of a live audience at Beaverdale Books during the DMACC Celebration of Literary Arts in April.

Announcement of Winners

- Judging will take place early in the spring semester. Winners will be notified in March through their DMACC email address. Winners will also be announced in the DMACC Daily and the DMACC English Department website.
- Unfortunately, we are not able to contact each non-winning competitor individually.
- Your patience is appreciated. There are more than 100 entries with 500-700 pages to read. Conscientious judging takes time!

Publication of Winners Entries

- Winners are responsible for emailing their winning entries to the editor of *Expressions*, DMACC's Creative Writing magazine for publication. Details will be provided when the winners are notified. Because of the time it takes to create *Expressions*, winners need to submit their work immediately after they are notified of winning. Entries are valued, but publication of winning entries in *Expressions* is not guaranteed. Details will be provided at the winner's reading.

Distribution of Prizes

- Checks will be mailed to winners.
- Scholarships winners need to notify Marc Dickinson as they are registering for the semester they are applying their scholarship, so funds can be transferred into the students account, via the Business office.

Disqualification

Insufficient number of works entered, incorrect genre, insufficient contact information, lack of statement expressing your interest in competing for the DMACC scholarship or cash award, and/or lack of a signed and dated certification of originality and publication release may render the entry ineligible for competition.

Please note

- Keep an electronic copy of your work.
- Entries will not be returned.

Sponsored by

- DMACC Foundation
- DMACC Ankeny Campus Student Activities Council
- Department of Sciences and Humanities

Questions

Contact creativewritingcontest@dmacc.edu or madickinson@dmacc.edu

How to Submit

Eligibility: Any full time or part time DMACC credit class student enrolled fall 2024, including high school students enrolled for dual credit. We cannot accept entries from DMACC students enrolled in DMACC classes through correctional facilities. DMACC faculty and staff are not eligible to participate but are encouraged to submit material to the DMACC Faculty and Staff Creative Writing Contest Showcase.

What to Submit:

- One to three short stories, creative nonfiction pieces, and/or poems, or any combination.
- Each work should be no longer than 6,000 words.
- Please submit no more than three works per student.
- No plays, academic or composition essays, song lyrics, chapters of longer works, etc. Please see previous copies of *Expressions*.

Note on What to Submit: While there are no requirements for subject, genre, or form, participants are strongly encouraged to review previous editions of *Expressions* to get a sense of what the judges tend to select. Judges tend to prefer realism in fiction to genre pieces (romance, fantasy, or science fiction). Participants are also strongly encouraged to proofread their work before submitting to the contest. Poor grammar, spelling or copy editing hurt a piece's potential.

Format Requirements for Cover Letter and Each Piece of Writing:

Students should submit their work with a cover letter or entry form containing a signed statement offering permission to publish and use the winning work.

Students may also opt to use the official entry form instead of the cover letter. See the DMACC English department website for a copy of the entry form.

- **Cover Letter** with your name, mailing address, phone number, DMACC student ID number, titles of each piece of writing, expressing your interest for the DMACC Scholarship* (applicable starting summer 2025, cash-only award, and the following signed and dated certification of originality and publication release.

I certify that the short stories, poems, and/or nonfiction that I have entered in this contest are original to me. Also, I grant permission for DMACC to publish my work in Expressions, DMACC's creative writing magazine, and on the DMACC Creative Writing website.

Your name, date

*Scholarship entries are also automatically considered for cash award.

- **Entry Form** if you chose the entry form, fill in the appropriate information and sign.

Format Requirements for each piece:

- All pieces should be typed and submitted as a **Word document** or **rtf file**
- Each piece should be titled and page numbered
- All short stories should be double spaced
- Do not put name or other identifying information on your pieces of work
- Not including any of the required information or incorrect format may render the entry ineligible for completion.

Submission

Email: Attach all documents to a new email. Subject line: Creative Writing Contest Entry and email to creativewritingcontest@dmacc.edu