



# Student Writing Excellence Awards

## *Eligibility & Submission Guide*

### Quick Links:

- [Eligibility Requirements](#)
- [Submission Categories and Specifications](#)
- [Freshman Composition](#)
- [Researched Argument](#)
- [Literary Analysis](#)
- [Non-College High School Composition](#)
- [Submission Procedure](#)
- [Selection Process and Awards](#)
- [FAQ](#)
- [Contest Submission Form](#)
- [Contact Contest Organizer](#)

## Eligibility Requirements

- Student entrants must be enrolled either in Angelina College or a high school participating in Angelina College's dual credit program as of Spring 2024.
- Student entrants must have a faculty sponsor.
  - The faculty sponsor should be the instructor (high school or college) who originally assigned the essay.
  - If the assigning faculty is unavailable to serve as the student's sponsor for any reason, any current faculty who teaches at least one English course at the student entrant's institution may fill this role.
- Entries must be submitted no later than **March 29, 2024**.

[^ Back to top.](#)

## Submission Categories and Specifications

- Freshman Composition:
  - Submissions must be essays:

- Composed and graded for an assignment in a freshman credit-level college English course (ENGL 1301 or 1302) at Angelina College during the 2023 calendar year--Spring, Summer, Fall, or Mini semesters.
- Between 500 and 1500 words in length.
- Exhibiting correct MLA 8th or 9th edition formatting and documentation (if applicable).

[^ Back to top.](#)

- Researched Argument:
  - Submissions must be essays:
    - Composed and graded for an argumentative or persuasive assignment in a credit-level college English course at Angelina College during the 2023 calendar year--Spring, Summer, Fall, or Mini semesters.
    - Between 750 and 2000 words in length.
    - Incorporating scholarly research.
    - Exhibiting correct MLA 8th or 9th edition formatting and documentation.

[^ Back to top.](#)

- Literary Analysis:
  - Submissions must be essays:
    - Composed and graded for a literature analysis assignment in a credit-level college English course at Angelina College during the 2023 calendar year--Spring, Summer, Fall, or Mini semesters.
    - Between 750 and 2500 words in length.
    - Exhibiting correct MLA 8th or 9th edition formatting and documentation.

[^ Back to top.](#)

- Non-College High School Composition:
  - Submissions must be essays:
    - Composed and graded for a junior- or senior-level high school English course during the 2023 calendar year.
    - Between 500 and 1500 words in length.
    - Exhibiting format and documentation that follows a recognized academic style (MLA 8th or 9th edition preferred).

[^ Back to top.](#)

## Submission Procedure

- Remove all personal identifying information from the submission file, including the student's last name in the essay header, the student's and instructor's names in the essay heading, and any similar identifying information in the file name.
- Save the file as a Microsoft Word or PDF document.
- Complete and submit the [Awards Submission Form](#) no later than **March 29, 2024**.
  - Please note: Some entrants have encountered trouble accessing the submission form when logged into their school Google accounts; if you encounter this problem, try accessing the form while logged in to your personal account.

[^ Back to top.](#)

## Selection Process and Awards

- A panel of Angelina College English faculty members will read all properly submitted essays.
- Each member of the selection panel will rank the essays within each category according to the overall quality of content and technical precision.
- The rankings provided by all members will be compared to determine contest finalists.
- First, second, and third prize winners will be chosen from among the finalists by a majority vote from the panel.
  - Winners will be announced and notified via email.
  - First-prize winners in each category will receive a monetary award of \$250.
  - Second-prize winners in each category will receive a monetary award of \$150.
  - Third-prize winners in each category will receive a monetary award of \$100.
- In the event that a category does not receive submissions or the selection panel determines that there are no submissions of sufficient academic merit for a particular prize, no prize(s) will be awarded for that category/place.
- Winners will be announced on or before **April 19, 2024**.

[^ Back to top.](#)

## FAQ

- **What is the deadline to enter the contest?**
  - March 29, 2024.

- **When will the winners be announced and prizes be awarded?**
  - On or before April 19, 2024.
- **Do I have to be in an English class this semester to enter?**
  - No. As long as you are a current student at Angelina College or a qualifying area high school, you can enter the contest.
- **Can I still enter my essay even if I didn't earn an A on the assignment?**
  - Yes. Although essays that earned top marks for the original assignment may need less revision and editing to be competitive, a lower-scoring essay with strong potential could make an excellent entry. However, if an essay received an F for plagiarism or was not accepted by the assigning instructor for any reason, it is not eligible for the contest.
- **What does my faculty sponsor have to do?**
  - The faculty sponsor's role is to verify your eligibility, support your entry, and vouch for your submission's quality. The faculty sponsor may also provide you with advice about how to polish your entry. In some cases, the awards selection panel may need to contact the faculty sponsor for additional information such as clarifying questions about an assignment.
- **Can I enter an essay I wrote as a high school sophomore?**
  - No. High school essays must come from junior- or senior-level English courses.
- **Can I enter an essay I wrote as a high school junior if I am now enrolled at AC?**
  - Yes, as long as you are also still enrolled in high school courses for the current academic year. If you have already graduated from high school, you may no longer enter the High School Composition category.
- **Can I revise and enter an essay I wrote for a class from before 2022?**
  - No. All entries must be essays written for a class that took place during the 2022 calendar year.
- **I'm a dual credit student. Which category should I enter?**
  - Dual credit students can enter any category for which they meet the specifications.
- **I am a high school student, but I don't take dual credit classes. Can I still enter?**
  - Yes. As long as you attend a high school that partners with Angelina College for dual credit, you can participate.
- **Can I enter more than one essay or category?**
  - Yes, as long as you only enter one essay per category.

- **Can I win more than one prize?**

- No. Each student entrant is only eligible to win one Student Writing Excellence Award per year. If a student is selected for a prize by the selection panel in more than one category, the student will receive the highest award for which s/he was selected, and runners-up will be promoted as necessary in the other categories.

- **Should I revise my essay before I submit it?**

- Yes. While your essay entry should not change in essence from the essay you submitted as coursework, it is recommended that you polish your submission so that it represents your highest quality work.

- **If I win a prize this year, can I win again in the future?**

- Yes. Students are encouraged to enter every year as long as they do not resubmit material from another year.

- **I have a question that's not answered here. What should I do?**

- Contact the contest organizer, Professor Renee Williams, at [rwilliams@angelina.edu](mailto:rwilliams@angelina.edu).

^ [Back to top.](#)