



Dear Principals, Guidance Counselors, English Department Chairs and Teachers,

The Links, Incorporated of Metropolitan DC Chapter cordially invites students in grades 8-12 to participate in the Dr. Jean Mosee Young Writers Contest. This program was developed in 1982 by the chapter, after learning about poor test scores in writing among African American high school students. The purpose of the contest is to encourage writing among middle and high school students, especially students of color, and to publicly recognize their literary talents. In thirty-three years, over 2,000 students have participated in the Young Black Writers program and there have been more than 200 winners over the life of the program.

The Links, Incorporated believe and affirm that young minds are challenged to think critically when asked to integrate creativity with written expression. It is exciting to extend this invitation and to partner with you to help students stretch their imagination, exercise their writing skills and compete to win prizes, including cash up to \$500!

Nationally, The Links, Incorporated maintains a strong leadership role in ensuring that youth are academically successful, and prepared for the global workforce. Across the country, chapters have demonstrated the organization's commitment to partner with community education projects which include STEM, health education, mentoring, reading, tutoring, after-school programming, providing computer hardware and software computer assisted instruction, SAT preparation, test-taking skill development and career awareness workshops to ensure the future of students within our communities. To learn more about The Links, Incorporated, please visit our website at www.linksinc.org.

Attached is the Dr. Jean Mosee Young Writers Contest program package, which includes guidelines for submission, a Q&A sheet, the teacher verification form, Young Writer's permission to publish, and a contest flier for teachers, administrators, and students. The flier can be copied and posted to announce and draw interest in the contest.

Please feel free to contact the co-chairs with any questions or visit the Metro DC Links website at www.metrodclinks.org.

Dr. Jean Curl Mosee determined early in her career that writing was vital to success. This love of grammar began when Dr. Mosee majored in German while a student at Howard University in Washington, DC. She always believed that learning a language strengthened one's knowledge and use of English. While teaching German to save money for medical school, her love of writing and poetry solidified. Her students were required to compose stories and recite poems in German.

While at Meharry Medical College in Nashville, Tennessee, Dr. Mosee used writing as a way to relax and rejuvenate, and continued writing for pleasure throughout her life. As a pediatrician in the Washington, DC communities, she realized that unless literature was taught and fostered, children would not develop a love for it. In order to bring writing to the community and students in Washington, DC, Dr. Mosee - who organized the Metropolitan DC Chapter of the Links, Inc., along with Dr. Ruth Anderson – Created a Young Black Writer’s Contest as a signature event sponsored by the chapter. Students from local schools were encouraged to write essays and poems, under the direction of their English teachers, and to submit them for a juried contest, which culminated in a presentation of the works at a ceremony in Washington, DC. This event continues today and has been named in honor of Dr. Mosee.

In the Service to our Youth,
B. Atkinson-Willoughby
Sara Horton
Co-Chairs, Services to Youth
The Links, Incorporated
Metropolitan District of Columbia Chapter
STY@metroclinks.org