



Metropolitan DC Chapter Dr. Jean Mosee Young Writers Contest 2016 Rules and Guidelines

1. **Entries must be submitted by: Friday, February 5, 2016 @ 8:00 p.m.**
2. Contestants must submit original work based on the following themes:

High School – Black Lives Matter is an activist movement that originated in the African American community in July 2013, when George Zimmerman was acquitted in the killing of Trayvon Martin, an unarmed black teenager who was shot during a struggle in a gated Florida community. The movement has been rooted in the deaths of black people killed by law enforcement officers and issues of racial profiling, police brutality and racial inequity in the US criminal justice system.

It has been said that Black Lives Matters has changed the public debate over civil rights and has grown into a campaign to fight systemic injustices for African Americans and other minorities. What are your points of view about the Black Lives Matters movement? Discuss your position in support of or in opposition to the movement.

Middle School – In 2013, the city council in Takoma Park Maryland voted to decrease the voting age to 16 and allow teens to vote in city elections. According to the Washington Post, this was the first city in the United States to allow this right. In January 2015, the city council in Hyattsville Maryland voted to allow 16 and 17 year olds to vote in city elections. The debate about lowering the voting age continues and many states allow teens to vote. Do you think 16 and 17-year old youth should be allowed to vote? Discuss and give your views.

3. Contestants must submit original work in one or more of the following genres:

Middle School (8 th grade only)	High School (grades 9, 10, 11 and 12)
Poetry - Submit one poem OR Prose - Essays: One and a half page Maximum or Short Stories: Two pages with a Maximum word count of 300 Include a short theme statement, for each poem and prose entry.	Poetry - Submit a collection of 3 poems OR Prose - Essays: Three pages Maximum or Short Stories: Five pages with a Maximum word count of 750 Include a short theme statement, for each poem and prose entry.

4. Contestants must be in 8th-12th grades
5. Instructions for completing entries:
 - a. Submissions need to be in Word document format, PDF file preferred.
 - b. All pages of each electronic entry must be typed on standard 8 ½ x 11 white paper with a 12pt Times New Roman font.
 - c. Type, or clearly print your name 1 ½ inch from the top right corner of each page.
 - d. All “type” must be “black” so that entries can be easily read and photocopied.
 - e. Double space all prose entries. Poetry entries may be single spaced.
 - f. Do not include a separate cover page.
6. Keep a copy of your entry, and this form; we will not return any entries.
7. The Teacher Verification Form, below, must accompany each students’ entry.
8. All entries must be accompanied by an executed Permission To Publish by the student, parent and/or guardian.

9. The use of profanity or sexual content is an automatic disqualification.

ALL entries must be submitted via email to: STY@metroclinks.org

Questions? Email : STY@metroclinks.org or visit The Metro DC Links website at www.metroclinks.org