



MCEF 2017 POETRY & CREATIVE WRITING 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, "In 20 Years...", and may not exceed 500 words.**
3. All entries, whether mailed, emailed, or shared electronically, must be **received** by midnight March 31, 2017. Electronic submissions must be PDF only.
4. Entries and Official Entry Forms must be submitted in one of the following ways:
 - a. By mail to MCEF Contest
750 Imperial St.
Christiansburg, VA 24073
 - b. By email to info@montcoef. Entries and Official Entry Forms must be attached as separate PDF files.
 - c. By Google sharing to montcoef@mcps.org. Entries and Official Entry Forms must be shared as separate PDF files.
 - d. By MCPS internal "pony" mail to "MCEF" at "SBO". The student's teacher or school main office must send the entry by this method.
5. Students may submit more than one entry, but may only earn one prize.
6. Previous winners are not eligible 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., during the month of May 2017.
8. 1st Place prizes will be awarded at the Montgomery Co. School Board meeting on May 2, 2017 at 7:00 pm in the Board Room at the Montgomery County Government Center, 755 Roanoke St., Christiansburg, VA. **1st Place Winners must be present at the School Board meeting on May 2, 2017 to receive the 1st Place prize.**
9. 2nd and 3rd Place prizes and award certificates will be sent to the student at their school.
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 media release on the Official Entry Form.**
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 Official Entry Form.
14. **The student's name should not appear anywhere on the submitted piece, only on the Official Entry Form.**
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. Only winners and honorable mentions will be notified directly by MCEF staff. Results will be displayed on the MCEF website by May 15, 2017 at www.montcoef.org.