

# SCSC WRITING CONTEST

## 2023–2024 Theme: Communication

The SCSC Writing Contest provides students with an opportunity to express themselves through fiction, non-fiction and/or poetry. This contest was established to encourage the love of language and writing for all students and as a way to recognize the talented young writers in south central Minnesota. SCSC is partnering with Minnesota State University, Mankato. Students in grades K–12 attending public, private or homeschools are eligible to enter. Up to three pieces per category and submissions in multiple categories are welcome. Entries should address the 2023–24 theme: **Communication**. For additional contest details visit [www.mnscsc.org/writing-contest](http://www.mnscsc.org/writing-contest).

**How to Enter:** Create a poem, fiction or non-fiction piece. Follow the general rules and entry guidelines listed below. Submit your writings along with an entry form via email or mail. Entries must be received by March 22, 2024.

### CATEGORY DESCRIPTIONS:

#### Poetry:

Arrangement of words in an artistic and purposeful manner that expresses the writer's thoughts and/or feelings about a subject of their choice using style and rhythm (ex: sonnets, haiku, free verse).

- Limit three entries per student
- Maximum length is two pages, double-spaced per entry

#### Fiction (Imaginary/Fantasy):

Stories that describe imaginary events and people that entertain the reader with realistic details, involving characters who experience a conflict (ex: historical fiction, realistic fiction, fantasy, science fiction, mystery).

- Limit three entries per student
- Maximum length is five pages, double-spaced per entry

#### Non-Fiction (True/Factual):

(Choose one or more non-fiction types)

**Personal narrative:** A true story that describes a real event or experiences in the author's life.

**Information:** Factual writing to convey knowledge of a topic and research findings.

**Essay/Opinion:** A feeling or thought you have about a subject or topic, supported by research.

- Limit three entries per student
- Maximum length is five pages, double-spaced per entry

**All entries should relate to the 2023–24 theme: Communication.**

*Communication: The exchange of information or news, sharing of ideas and feelings, social contact, and/or the means of sending/receiving information.*

#### General Rules:

- Entries must be the student's original work, previously unpublished and relate to the theme.
- Entry forms are available on page two or online at [www.mnscsc.org/writing-contest](http://www.mnscsc.org/writing-contest). Electronic entries preferred.
- One entry form should be completed per individual.
- Entries must be received electronically or by mail by March 22, 2024.
- Each entry submission must include entry fees. Scholarships available.
- Winning entries will be published in a print and online anthology. Please refrain from explicit language or content.
- Please save a copy of each entry for your records.

#### Entry Guidelines:

- Title each entry piece. Include the title and student's name and grade on the entry.
- Entries should be typed or written on white (or notebook) paper in legible font/handwriting.
- Please, no staples or other binding.

#### Judging process:

Entries will be reviewed by Minnesota State University, Mankato elementary education students who will score based on a rubric.

#### Announcing Winners:

Winners will be contacted via email to attend the award ceremony.

#### Award Ceremony:

An award ceremony will be held in May to honor the finalists. Attire is business casual. Additional details will be provided to winning students.

#### Awards:

Each winner will receive a copy of the print anthology. Additional prizes may be awarded.

#### Other information:

Copyright reverts to authors upon publication. By participating in this event, you give SCSC permission to use any audio/visual recordings and photographs taken during the event and give permission to publish your work online and/or in print materials.

**For more information, visit [www.mnscsc.org/writing-contest](http://www.mnscsc.org/writing-contest)**

Questions: [mhillmann@mnscsc.org](mailto:mhillmann@mnscsc.org) or 507-389-2509



SCSC Writing Contest Entry Form  
**Electronic entry and payment preferred at [www.mnscsc.org/writing-contest](http://www.mnscsc.org/writing-contest)**  
Entry Deadline: Received by March 22, 2024

Student Name \_\_\_\_\_ Grade \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Person \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship to Student \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Contact Email (required; one most used) \_\_\_\_\_

School Name \_\_\_\_\_ School City \_\_\_\_\_

Student bio (could include interests future plans, family life, etc.) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ **Poetry:** Limit 3. \$6 each

Titles: (1) \_\_\_\_\_

(2) \_\_\_\_\_

(3) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ **Fiction:** Limit 3. \$6 each

Titles: (1) \_\_\_\_\_

(2) \_\_\_\_\_

(3) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ **Non-fiction:** Limit 3. \$6 each

Titles: (1) \_\_\_\_\_

(2) \_\_\_\_\_

(3) \_\_\_\_\_

**Total Payment \$** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ **Paid by check** (include student name in memo). **Check number** \_\_\_\_\_ Please make checks payable to "SCSC."

\_\_\_ **Paid by cash**

*By submitting an entry I acknowledge that I have read and accept the rules of the contest. I certify that the writing submitted is my original work, has not been published elsewhere and relates to the theme. I give permission to publish my submission in an anthology, on a website or both as well as in promotional materials. I understand that my submission may be edited for content, language or formatting for the published anthology.*

Student Signature (typing name is signature if submitting electronically) \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Signature (typing name is signature if submitting electronically) \_\_\_\_\_

**Electronic submissions are encouraged:**

Online: [www.mnscsc.org/writing-contest](http://www.mnscsc.org/writing-contest)

Email: [mhillmann@mnscsc.org](mailto:mhillmann@mnscsc.org)

**Send payment, printed entries and forms to:**

Mary Hillmann

Attn: SCSC Writing Contest

South Central Service Cooperative

2075 Lookout Drive, North Mankato, MN 56003

**Questions:**

Mary Hillmann

[mhillmann@mnscsc.org](mailto:mhillmann@mnscsc.org)

507-389-2405

