November 8, 2014

Dear Colleague:

Shawnee College is proud to announce its sixth annual high school writing contest, called **Celebrating Young Writers**. On behalf of our English Department, I would like to invite your students to submit original written work in any of three categories: Short Fiction, Poetry, and Non-fiction Essays. The entries will be judged in two divisions: Division 1 will be for 9th and 10th graders, and Division 2 will be for 11th and 12th graders.

Included in this packet are the contest guidelines, entry forms, and a contest poster. The guidelines form includes criteria for each contest genre, as well as general submission policies. An entry form is required for each submission. The poster is meant to provide a constant reminder of the contest deadline for your students. Please post in a public location.

All submissions must be **received** by Shawnee College no later than **February 14, 2015**. Submissions can be mailed to my attention or delivered in person to the Information Desk.

In addition, please remind your students of the following:

- Make THREE copies of each entry.
- Attach ONE copy of the Entry Form to the three copies.
- Print their names and entry titles clearly on the Entry Form, but not on their work.
- Conform to submission requirements.
- Submit in multiple categories to increase chances of winning.

Please encourage your students to prepare their submissions before the deadline. Student writers, their families, and teachers will be celebrated at an awards ceremony and reception on April 23, 2015 at 6 pm in the Shawnee College Atrium. We hope you can join us.

If you have any questions, please contact me at ryan@shawneecc.edu or (618) 634-3329. Many thanks for your interest in our writing contest.

Sincerely,

Dr. Ryan Thornsberry
English Instructor
Contest Coordinator
Celebrating Young Writers

High School Writing Contest Guidelines
Deadline for Submissions: February 14, 2015

Categories of Writing (judged in two divisions: 9th/10th grade and 11th/12th grade)

Short Fiction
This category includes short stories or excerpts from longer works. Entries should be no more than 1,000-1,500 words. One entry per student.

Poetry
Poetry of all kinds is encouraged. There is no length limit for each poem, but please limit submissions to four poems per student. Poems will be judged individually.

Non-fiction Essay
This category includes more formal topics such as literary criticism, researched arguments, or informational research essays. They may include research but it is not required. Entries should be no more than 1,000-2,000 words. One entry per student.

Submission Requirements
All entries must be computer-produced and printed on standard 8½ x 11 paper. Students may submit in any or all categories. Three copies of each entry should be paper clipped to one copy of the Entry Form (available online at www.shawneecc.edu). Students’ names should appear only on the Entry Forms, and not on their submitted work(s). The deadline for entries to arrive at Shawnee College is February 14, 2015. The entries will be evaluated by qualified judges. No entries will be returned, so please keep copies of your work.

Awards
Cash awards and prizes will be presented to winners in each division and each category.

Division 1 (9th/10th grade)

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>First Place</th>
<th>Second Place</th>
<th>Third Place</th>
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Division 2 (11th/12th grade)

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<tr>
<th>First Place</th>
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<td>$100</td>
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Awards Ceremony
A ceremony to celebrate the student writers will be held on April 23, 2015 at 6 pm in the Shawnee College Atrium. The winners in each division and category will be announced and prizes will be awarded. During the celebration, the winning entries (or excerpts) will be read aloud. Light refreshments will be provided at the ceremony in the Atrium. Please plan to attend this celebration of young writers, their teachers, and their families.

Questions and entry packets should be directed to:
Dr. Ryan Thornsberry, Shawnee Community College, 8364 Shawnee College Road, Ullin, IL 62992
(618) 634-3329 or ryan@shawneecc.edu

Entry Forms are available online at www.shawneecc.edu
Celebrating Young Writers

High School Writing Contest
Entry Form

Please paperclip one copy of this entry form sheet to three copies of each entry. The entry must include a title on the first page. The student’s name should not appear on the entry.

Please print:

Student’s Name:__________________________________________________________

Grade (circle one):  9th  10th  11th  12th

School:__________________________________________________________
(If you are home-schooled, write “Home”)

English Teacher’s Name:__________________________________________________
(If you are home-schooled, write your parent’s name here)

Home Address:__________________________________________________________
House Number and Street Name    City    State   Zip Code

Phone where you can be reached (with area code):______________________________

ENTRY TITLE:____________________________________________________________

CATEGORY (circle one):  Short Fiction  Poetry  Non-fiction Essay

At the awards ceremony, the winning entries (or excerpts from) will be read aloud, either by the student writers or by a member of the Shawnee College faculty. In addition, winners are asked to submit their work electronically for publication on SCC’s website.

If I win, I would like to read my work aloud at the awards ceremony (circle one):  Yes  No

If I win, I give SCC permission to publish my winning entry on its website (circle one): Yes  No

NOTE: COPIES WILL NOT BE RETURNED.
Shawnee College is not responsible for the content of entries.

__________________________________________________________
Statement of Originality

The attached entry represents my original work.  Date:________________________

Student Signature:______________________________________________________

Submit entry packets by mail or in person to:
Dr. Ryan Thornsberry, English Instructor and Contest Coordinator
Shawnee Community College, 8364 Shawnee College Road, Ullin, IL 62992