

Freshman Writing Award

The purpose of the Freshman Writing Award is to encourage and recognize excellence in student writing and to help foster a culture of writing at Webster University.

Eligibility:

The competition is open to students who were first-semester freshman in the fall term. Submissions may be in any genre, providing that they are a minimum of 500 words long, were written in the English language, and were written for a class taught by a full-time or adjunct Webster University instructor during the fall semester. Submissions from either 8-week or 16-week courses are eligible.

Submission Requirements:

Pieces must be nominated by instructors. However, students may request that an instructor nominate their work for the award. Each instructor may nominate only **one** piece per student per course.

Each submission should include the following:

1. A copy of the assignment.
2. The graded version of the piece with instructor comments, if available.
3. A clean (unedited/unmarked) electronic copy of the piece, **sent as an attachment** to roshaundacade51@webster.edu.
4. A short (250-word maximum) author's statement in which the student author tells the story of writing his or her piece.

Deadline:

Submissions must be received by 5 p.m. on the fourth Friday of the Spring semester.

(Rolling submissions are accepted; if you have a paper you would like to nominate early in the fall term, please feel free to send it any time before the deadline.)

Submissions should be sent to:

Roshaunda D. Cade
Writing Center Coordinator
Roshaundacase51@webster.edu
Loretto Hall Room 6
314-246-7589

Judging Criteria:

The award-winning works should illustrate the qualities of excellent college-level writing. That is to say, they should: satisfy the demands of the assignment; express a clear and significant central idea; progress by logical and compelling stages; be supported with consistent and relevant detail; demonstrate the use of coherent and unified paragraphs and skillfully constructed sentences; and use consistently correct grammar, punctuation, and spelling. In addition, they should, in the opinion of the judges:

1. Engage the topic in a fresh, original, thought-provoking manner;
2. Appeal to an audience beyond the instructor or classmates of the author, offering value and insight to the general reader;
3. Be written in language that is clear, powerful, effective, and economical.

Judging Procedures:

The panel of judges will be comprised of seven to nine members, including instructors from a diverse range of disciplines and a student of senior standing. The Writing Center Coordinator will serve as an *ex officio* member of the committee.

The Writing Center staff will assign a number to each work, and all works will be forwarded without any identifying information to the judges.

Notification of Winners:

The authors of the winning works and the instructors who nominated them will be notified in early March. Submissions will not be returned.

Prizes and Awards Ceremony:

First Prize: \$250

Second Prize: \$150

Third Prize: \$50

Each student also receives a plaque. During the spring term, a luncheon is held in honor of the awardees; their nominating instructors are also invited to attend.