

## Creative Writing Awards in Partnership with We Need Diverse Books

Penguin Random House is passionate about encouraging the next generation of readers and authors and promoting diverse voices and stories. For 25 years, Penguin Random House has supported this mission through the Creative Writing Awards, which in 2019 is entering into an innovative new partnership with national advocacy organization We Need Diverse Books. Through this program, Penguin Random House will award college scholarships of up to \$10,000 each to five U.S. high school seniors, nationwide.

Creative Writing Awards winners have gone on to become professional and award-winning authors. Since 1994, this program has awarded more than \$2.6 million dollars to public high school students for original poetry, memoir/personal essay, fiction/drama, and spoken-word compositions. This signature program continues to empower and celebrate hundreds of young writers each year.

This program is administered by Scholarship America®, the nation's largest designer and manager of scholarship, tuition assistance and other education support programs for corporations, foundations, associations, and individuals. Awards are granted without regard to race, color, creed, religion, sexual orientation, gender, disability, or national origin.

### Awards

\$10,000 Maya Angelou Award for Spoken-Word Poetry

\$10,000 Poetry

\$10,000 Fiction/Drama

\$10,000 Personal Essay/Memoir

50 Honorable Mention recipients will receive a “Creativity Kit” gift from Penguin Random House.

In recognition of the Creative Writing Awards previously being centered on New York City and as an extension of our longtime work with local schools there, we will also offer an additional first-place prize of \$10,000 to the top entrant from the NYC area.

Scholarship awards will be made by Penguin Random House to your choice of post-secondary educational institution. Awards will be payable over four years.

### Eligibility

Applicants to the **Penguin Random House Creative Writing Awards in Partnership with We Need Diverse Books** must:

- Be current high school seniors at a public high school in one of the United States of America, including the District of Columbia and U.S. territories, age 21 years and under, graduating in spring 2019.

- Planning to enroll in full-time undergraduate study at an accredited two-year or four-year college, university, or vocational-technical school for the entire upcoming academic year starting in fall 2019.
- Submit one original literary composition in English in one of the following genres of poetry, spoken-word poem, fiction/drama, or personal essay/memoir.

*Only the first 600 applications will be accepted. Family members, employees of Bertelsmann, Penguin Random House, its subsidiaries, divisions or affiliates are ineligible to apply.*

### **General Rules and Criteria**

1. All submissions must be typed, double-spaced with a minimum 12 point font size, and no longer than 10 pages.
2. All literary submissions with multiple pages must be numbered with a page number and total number of pages (Ex. 1/3, 2/3, 3/3).
3. A four-page minimum is recommended in the fiction/drama genre.
4. All uploaded entries must be clear and legible.
5. You may submit only one entry to the competition.
6. All entries must be original works. We do not accept plagiarism or copyright infringement.

### **Application Process**

- Start by clicking Register to Apply at the bottom of this page. You must read and agree to a consent statement, supply a unique and valid email address, and create a username and password.
- Correspondence throughout the application process will be by email. Email messages will be sent to the username and email address registered when you created your account. Be sure to add randomc@scholarshipamerica.org to your contacts or address book and check your email regularly!
- Complete the application by entering data in the format described. Proper punctuation and standard capitalization (Jill Smith, 10 Main Street, New York, NY) must be used.
- During the application process, you may leave the site prior to submission by clicking Save and Log out.
- Once all application requirements are satisfied, Lock and Submit will be available near the bottom of the Review Application page.
- Carefully review your application before clicking Lock and Submit. Once submitted, you will no longer have access to your application.
- It is recommended that you keep a copy of your application for your records.
- You will receive an email acknowledgment of your submitted application.

## **Program Deadline**

Your application must be submitted on or before 3:00 p.m. Central Time on April 15, 2019 or before 600 applications have been received. As part of your application, you must upload your creative entry before submitting the application.

Your application is not complete unless all required documents are submitted electronically.

## **Criteria**

Literary compositions are judged by their technical merit; however, artistic expression is our core criterion. We are looking for writing with a strong, clear voice by authors who are daring, original, and unafraid to take risks.

All judging will be under the supervision of We Need Diverse Books and Penguin Random House by a specially selected panel of judges. The decision of the judges will be final. In the event there is an insufficient number of entries in any category which meet the minimum standards established by the judges, Penguin Random House reserves the right not to award any prize. Winners agree to the use by Penguin Random House or any of its subsidiaries or divisions of their names, addresses, likenesses, photographs and entries for promotional and similar purposes without further compensation or notification. Winners are solely responsible for any applicable state, federal, or other taxes. Penguin Random House and Scholarship America cannot be held responsible for lost, late or misdirected mail or e-mail communications. No entries will be returned.

## **Notification**

Winners will be announced and posted on the Penguin Random House Creative Writing website at <http://social-impact.penguinrandomhouse.com/creativewriting> by July 1, 2019.

## **Payment of Scholarships**

Scholarship America will process scholarship award payments on behalf of Penguin Random House. All awards will be paid over four (4) years, and cannot be deferred beyond one year.

## **Revisions**

Penguin Random House reserves the right to review the conditions and procedures of this scholarship program and to make changes at any time including termination of the program.

## **Contact Us**

Email: [randommc@scholarshipamerica.org](mailto:randommc@scholarshipamerica.org)

Call: 800-713-3193 and ask for the Penguin Random House Creative Writing Awards Program