

VAN BUREN COUNTY  
TEEN CREATIVE WRITING CHALLENGE 2018  
RULES

- ∠ Stories, poems and artwork may be submitted from Thursday, February 1 through Saturday, April 14.
- ∠ Participants may only submit one short story, one poem or one work of visual art per contest. (For example, you may not enter both a poem and a story.)
- ∠ Writers must be in grades 7-12. Homeschooled writers should be between the ages of 12 and 18 and working at the grade 7-12 level.
- ∠ Only works produced by a single writer or artist are allowed.
- ∠ Works that have been previously published or that have been accepted for publication elsewhere will not be accepted.
- ∠ Fiction must be from 1,200 to 3,000 words, and poems must be no longer than 225 lines. Stories and poems may not be illustrated. Illustrations accompanying written works will not be included when the work is sent to the judge.
- ∠ Please use only Times New Roman, Arial or a similar font in stories and poems. Any “fancy fonts” will be altered before being sent on to the judges, and colored text will be changed to black.
- ∠ Writers must fill out a Registration Form, available online through our Facebook page ([www.facebook.com/vbctcwc](http://www.facebook.com/vbctcwc)) and at every participating library from February 1 through April 14.
- ∠ To enter via email, send your story, poem or artwork to [vbctcwc@gmail.com](mailto:vbctcwc@gmail.com). Include your name, school and grade on the work or in the email accompanying the work. You may also share your work on Google Drive.
- ∠ Stories and poems should be in one of the following formats: .doc, .docx or .rtf. PDF is acceptable if no other format is possible.
- ∠ Artwork must be original (not traced or copied and pasted, for example), but otherwise is not restricted. Hand-drawn art, digital art, photography, painting, etc., are all acceptable.
- ∠ Artwork should be high resolution (at least 300 ppi, preferably 426 ppi or greater), and at least 6”x9”. Larger images or images with odd dimensions may be reduced, cropped or otherwise edited to fit on the cover. Smaller images cannot be accepted. Images may be sent in .jpg, .png or .tif format. For other formats, please ask in advance by emailing [vbctcwc@gmail.com](mailto:vbctcwc@gmail.com). You may also share your work on Google Drive.
- ∠ You may also hand in hard copy of your work to your local public library (participating libraries include Hartford Public Library, Lawton Public Library, Paw Paw District Library, South Haven Memorial Library and Van Buren District Library with branches in Bangor, Bloomingdale, Covert, Decatur, Gobles, Lawrence and Mattawan). Original artwork will not be returned.
- ∠ Hard copy entries must be in the hands of library staff by closing time April 14. Emailed entries must have been sent to [vbctcwc@gmail.com](mailto:vbctcwc@gmail.com) by 11:59pm April 14.
- ∠ Finalists will be announced by email and on participating libraries’ Facebook pages on Tuesday, May 1. If a writer or artist does not provide an email address, a letter will be sent through the US Postal Service.
- ∠ Winners will be announced through the same channels on Monday, May 14. The Awards Ceremony will take place on Saturday, June 16, in the Antwerp Township Meeting Hall next to the Antwerp Sunshine Branch Library in Mattawan.