



High School Competition 2026 Contest Rules

Creative Writing Impromptu Fiction and Poetry

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Columbia State Community College will sponsor impromptu fiction and poetry-writing contests as part of our High School Competition Day on **Friday, March 20, 2026**.

Each school may send up to three students (for example, two fiction-writers and one poetry-writer). **Teachers must register their students for this contest by Friday, March 6, 2026. Unfortunately, no one will be allowed to register on the day of the competition.**

Rules for Creative Writing Competition:

1. TIME: 45 minutes

2. TOPICS: Students will write either short fiction or poetry, which will be provided at the time of the contest.

3. MATERIALS: A limited number of word-processing workstations will be available. Fiction Writers will have first priority in the assignment of these stations and will be accommodated on a first registered, first-served basis. All students should come prepared with a pen or pencil; paper will be provided.

4. JUDGING: Poems and stories will be judged by Columbia State writing faculty. Students' work must respond to the writing prompt and must demonstrate technical

control, insight, originality, and some knowledge of literary elements and devices. Judges' decisions are final.

5. AWARDS: Judges will award first, second, and third prizes in each category.

For additional information please contact Mr. Scott Beard or Dr. Judy Westley.