



## 2023 MOUNTAINEER WEEK CONTEST: WRITING APPALACHIA

\*Open to current WVU undergraduate students. Please use your WVU Mix email to access the submission form.

[Submit Here by Oct 8, 2023](#)

Ask a question. Tell a story. Solve a problem. Raise awareness. Research. Explore. Connect.  
We want to celebrate how *you* are helping tell Appalachia's story.

The **Writing Appalachia** contest invites brief scholarly essays, short creative works, editorials, how-to manuals, engaging research reports, science blogs, or any other written text that focuses on Appalachia in some way.

**We are especially interested in submissions that speak to your sense of purpose as a Mountaineer. WVU's new Purpose Center explains:**

*Just as your favorite food or music genre may change over time or with new experiences, so will your dreams and aspirations. Discovering who you are, your values and the strengths you lean on will guide you on your path of self-discovery. Understanding your purpose is a journey. . . .*

Here are a couple questions that may help you think about what you might submit, but we welcome all topics that focus on Appalachia in some way.

- How do the people, nature, or culture of Appalachia shape your sense of purpose?
- How do you (or how will you) contribute to Appalachia? For instance, what questions are you exploring? What stories need to be told? Whose awareness needs to be raised? What problem needs to be solved?

**ELIGIBILITY.** Each current WVU undergraduate may submit **ONE** example of writing that originated in your experiences at WVU during 2023 that has not been previously recognized with an award.

**DEADLINE.** Sunday, October 8, 2023 by 11:59 PM.

**PRIZES.** **First Place: \$100. Second Place: \$75. Third Place: \$50.** Winners will be announced at the beginning of Mountaineer Week and [featured on the SpeakWrite website](#). To honor Appalachia's rich tradition of storytelling, winners will have the option to read their submission aloud during Mountaineer Week as part of another campus reading event.

**GUIDELINES AND CRITERIA.** SpeakWrite questions related to purpose, audience, conventions, and trouble spots (PACT) can apply to any type of writing. Those core questions are at the heart of the SpeakWrite™ initiative, and they also inform the criteria for judging entries to the Writing Appalachia contest.

- **Purpose:** The entry studies, explores, or represents some clear aspect of the people, culture, issues, or places central to Appalachia. The writing demonstrates knowledge of Appalachia and its strengths, needs, or potential.
- **Audience:** The writing is mature, thorough, and well suited for a diverse WVU audience. That audience might include not only members of the WVU community, but also residents from around the country, state, and region as well as alumni, friends, and families.
- **Conventions:** The entry should be original, engaging, and **no more than 1,000 words (4 pages or less)**. The style is clear, readable, and grammatically correct. The entry meets the deadline of October 8.
- **Trouble-spots:** Have you considered what could get in the way of your goals? Have you kept a general WVU audience in mind? Have you considered the level and selection of detail? What structure is best? What about elements of style? Do you need to cite any sources? Other trouble spots could include content that is not original, is incomplete, not fully developed, or is compromised by major errors that disrupt or distort meaning.