

The University of Pittsburgh Department of English Announces the 2023-2024 COMPOSITION PROGRAM WRITING AWARDS

The Composition Program Writing Awards honor excellence in undergraduate writing by offering prizes for thoughtfully crafted essays and digital projects demonstrating ability to explore a subject's complexity. Undergraduates can compete for the **Ossip Award for Excellence in Seminar in Composition** or the **Award for Excellence in Public and Professional Writing Courses**. Winners can receive prizes of up to \$300.

Eligible Essays: Outstanding essays or digital projects written for any composition course taken during Summer and Fall 2023 and Spring 2024 are eligible. The judging committee particularly encourages submissions that work directly with texts or sources. Each writer may submit only one essay or project from each composition course completed during the designated terms. Writing may be revised before submission.

Four items are required to submit an essay:

- 1) **information sheet (.doc only) (this must be in a separate file from the essay)**
- 2) **anonymous version of your essay (.doc, .pdf, website link, .mp3 or .mp4)**
- 3) **an anonymous copy of the assignment (.doc or .pdf accepted)**
- 4) **initialed and signed permission form (.doc., .jpg, .pdf)**

1. Information Sheet. The information sheet must provide:

- Your essay's title, then your name, permanent mailing address, email address, phone number, student ID number;
- your instructor's name;
- the name and course number of the course for which the essay was written.
- MS word .doc or PDF format only—no OneDrive or Google Doc submissions will be accepted.
- Submissions with information sheets that have not been submitted as separate files will be disqualified.

2. Anonymized Essay.

- Your essay's title should appear at the top of the first page.
- Remove your name and your instructor's name from the entire essay (and all other materials other than the Information Sheet).
- .doc, .pdf, website link, .mp3, or .mp4. No OneDrive or Google Doc submissions will be accepted.
- *if you have questions about submitting multimodal or digital projects, please contact Chair of the Composition Awards Committee, Maureen Gallagher, at cmpaward@pitt.edu.*

3. An anonymized copy of the Assignment.

- Provide a copy of the assignment for which the paper was written, but *remove the instructor's name*.
- .doc or .pdf accepted—no OneDrive or Google Doc submissions will be accepted.

4. Initialed and signed copy of the Permission Form (see the next page)

- The signature is required. You may use an electronic signature or else print, sign, and scan the form. If this proves to be a problem, you may take and submit a photo of your signature along with the completed form.
- .doc., .jpg, or .pdf—no OneDrive or Google Doc submissions will be accepted.

How to Submit Your Work

Attach all 4 required items as separate files in an email to cmpaward@pitt.edu.

Attach your files directly to the email.

No OneDrive or Google Doc link submissions will be accepted.

Failure to adhere to submission guidelines may result in a disqualified entry. If you have questions, please contact Maureen Gallagher at cmpaward@pitt.edu.

Submission Deadlines

For Summer or Fall courses: **Dec 31, 2023**. For Spring courses: **May 31, 2024**.

Entries will be judged by a faculty committee. Winners will be notified December 2024.

Permission Form Your entry to the Composition Program's Writing Contest must be accompanied by this signed permission form. The choices below involve several types of permission; in each situation you would be named as the essay's author and retain copyright to your work. Please check all appropriate items and submit the form with your essay.

If the essay I'm submitting to the 2023-2024 Composition Contest receives an award or honorable mention, the Composition Program may use my writing in all the ways I have checked below:

My entire essay or praiseworthy excerpts may appear on the Composition Program's website, along with commentary on the writing's strengths by the Awards Subcommittee.

My entire essay may be made available to Composition Program faculty, either in print form or in a password-protected online faculty-development site.

My entire essay may be used as a basis for class discussion or writing assignments in Composition Program courses.

I would prefer that my essay not be used by the Composition Program, either online or in print.

Signature _____

Date _____

Print Your Name Here

Permanent Address and Telephone Number:

Although the Composition Program obviously welcomes the opportunity to celebrate award-winning undergraduate writing on its website and to make such essays available for teacher-development and classroom use, please be assured that your choices on this form will not affect contest outcomes. All permission forms will be retained by the Program's Administrative Assistant until the judging process has been completed.