#ChooseUL



Centre for Academic Excellence
Reading & Writing Centre

Theme: Reflect, Rebuild, and Restore

Please carefully read the guidelines below to ensure your entry is eligible for consideration.

1. General Submission Guidelines

- This competition is open to all University of Limpopo Students only.
- All entries must be submitted by **01 August 2025, 23:59.**
- All work must be original, unpublished, and not written using Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools or Chatbots.
- Submissions should be in English except for poems which can include English, Sepedi (Northern Sotho), Tshivenda, and Xitsonga.
- Participants should submit **one entry.**
- Participants who won in the previous years 'competitions are allowed to enter the competition, however in a different category.
- RWC Language Consultants are not allowed to enter the competition.

2. Competition Theme and Genre-Specific Guidelines

- **Competition Theme:** Reflect, Rebuild and Restore
- **Sub-themes:** Redefining GBV, Repositioning Mental Health, Speaking to Social Injustice and Journey to Healing.
- **Theme Motivation:** Using your pen to reflect on your journey, rebuilding your narrative, and restoring your voice by unleashing your inner thoughts, igniting transformation and inspiring the future.
- The genres allowed are essays, short stories, drama and poetry.
- Ensure that you generate and include a title for your work
- Please adhere to the following MS document length/words for each category
    - **Essays:** 1- 2½ pages
    - **Short Stories:** Word Count_1500-4000 words
    - **Drama:** 15-20 pages
    - **Poetry:** Maximum 1½ page

3. Submission Format and Process

- All submissions should be in MS Word document.
- Adhere to this standard formatting
    - Font type, size and spacing: Times New Roman, 12 pt, 1.5 line spacing
    - Justify your text for essays, short stories, and drama scripts. Poems can be written in various formats and/or structures.
- Ensure that you proofread your work, to ensure that you adhere to the guidelines and polish your work.
- How to Submit: Please send your entries to cae.rwc@myturf.ul.ac.za with the subject line 2025 Writing Competition_Category (e.g., 2025 Writing Competition_Drama)
- File Naming: Name your MS Word doc. as follows: WC25_[Category]_ [Your Surname_ initials].docx (e.g., WC25_Essay_Ledwaba M).
- Personal Information: Include your full names, student number, phone number, faculty, school, level of study, and topic in the body of your submission via email.

4.Entry Selection Criteria

- Entry Submissions will be judged based on:
    - Creativity and Originality: Unique ideas, perspectives or narrative styles.
    - Language and Style: Effective use of language, grammar, and structure.
    - Relevance and Interpretation: How well the work fits with the competition goals, theme and subthemes.
    - Emotional Impact: The ability to move, engage or challenge the reader.
    - Clarity and Coherence: The ability to express your creativeness clearly, without ambiguity and ensuring flow of ideas.
    - AI and Plagiarism: Entries reflecting no AI written work, authenticity and ability to reference where applicable.
- The competition and selection process will occur in various phases.

5. Competition Dates and Phases

Phase 1: Introduction of the competition themes and sub-themes

Introducing the competition and themes allows writers to interpret the theme and commence with writing.

Phase 2: Creative Writing Workshop

The workshop shall be held to educate the writers about creating writing; and provide an opportunity for them to review their own write-up. Moreover, the workshop further intends to capacitate the writers with additional writing skills, and how to effectively manage creating writing. The workshop shall be held on the 12th July 2025.

Phase 3: Opening of submissions and Evaluation process

Entries shall be opened for submission from the 14th July 2025 - 01 August 2025. Then, a panel review to select the Top 6 will be underway, whereby the writers shall be informed by the 15th August 2025, should they have made into the Top 6, in each category. Should there be no communication beyond 16th August 2025, please be informed that you did not make it to the Top 6.

Phase 4: Final Presentation (Top 6 in each category)

In the event that you are selected to be in the Top 6 within your category/genre, then you shall be invited to personally present your work at the RWC 2025 Writing Competition, to a panel of adjudicators and an audience. This will be held off campus on Sunday, 24th August 2025 (Venue to be disclosed to the Top 6, along with the invitation to attend).

6. Terms and Conditions

- By submitting your work, you grant the organisers the right to display your entry in connection with the competition.
- All entrants must comply with the competition rules/guidelines. Failure to do so will result in disqualification.
- Selection panel and adjudicators decisions are final.

We look forward to receiving your entries and celebrating the art of writing across these diverse genres!

For inquiries, please contact
cae.rwc@myturf.ul.ac.za, or
visit B-Block, Office B-1003

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