

The Write Challenge Entry Form



2026

The Write Challenge

Hosted by Lakota LEADS

The Write Challenge is an annual writing contest for students who reside in the Lakota Local School District. It is hosted by Lakota LEADS.



This year's theme: **ROOT**

Noun

1. The usually underground part of a seed plant body
2. Something that is an origin or source
3. An underlying support
4. The essential core
5. A quantity taken an indicated number of times as an equal factor (in mathematics)
6. The part by which an object is attached to something else

Verb

7. To furnish with or enable to develop
8. To remove altogether by or as if by pulling out by the roots (usually used with *out*)
9. To noisily applaud or encourage a contestant or team: cheer
10. To search unsystematically through an untidy area: rummage
11. Cause (someone) to stand immobile in fear or amazement

Interpret the topic however you like, just remember to follow the guidelines on the entry form. Good writing will cause the reader to think and feel! We can't wait to read your interpretation!

Before you begin

- Contest is open to students K-12 who reside in the Lakota District.
- Entries are due:
Sunday, March 29, 2026.
- Entries must be original and cannot have been previously published.
- Entries may be a poem, narrative, or essay.
- Winners will receive an award, their writing will be published in an anthology, and they will be honored at a reception in the spring.

See entry form for all details.

Entries must be submitted electronically to

lakotawritechallenge@gmail.com – see entry form for formats accepted.

Lakota LEADS

Lakota's Enrichment and Academic Development of Students (LEADS) is primarily aimed at the parents of children identified as gifted, but welcomes all families in the Lakota district. LEADS mission is to identify, provide and/or sponsor enriching academic and social opportunities for students of Lakota.

Reach us through our website, www.lakotaleads.org, Facebook, or president@lakotaleads.org

Lakota LEADS is a Lakota Support Organization.

Copy and use this entry form as a cover page (or page 1) for each entry. Students may submit one entry form per division. In the body of your email, include your name and contact info in case we have trouble with your attachment. **With the exception of the K-2 category, writing entries must be submitted as a Google Doc or MS Word file.** Scanned cover pages are acceptable, but the writing submission must be in Word/Docs for grades 3-12. **SUBMIT USING AN EMAIL THAT IS CHECKED REGULARY- WINNERS ARE NOTIFIED VIA EMAIL.** Submit entries to: lakotawritechallenge@gmail.com

Student Name: _____

Student Address: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

School: _____ Grade: _____ Teacher: _____

Write Challenge Division:

- | | | |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Grades K-2 | <input type="checkbox"/> Grades 7-8 | <input type="checkbox"/> Poetry Writing: free/rhymed verse |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Grades 3-4 | <input type="checkbox"/> Grades 9-12 | <input type="checkbox"/> Narrative Writing: short story |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Grades 5-6 | | <input type="checkbox"/> Personal Essay: personal nonfiction writing on topic |

Submit entries electronically in MS Word/Google Doc format (exceptions for handwritten or drawn items) to lakotawritechallenge@gmail.com. **DO NOT "SHARE" A FILE IN GOOGLE DOCS. SUBMISSIONS MUST BE SENT AS ATTACHMENTS.**

Due on or before March 29, 2026 at 11:59pm without exception.

The Write Challenge is an annual writing contest for students who reside in the Lakota Local School District. It is hosted by Lakota LEADS. All students in K-12 are encouraged to create a poem, a narrative, or an essay. Students may submit only one entry in each division. Winners in each *Challenge Division* will receive a prize commemorating their achievement. In addition, the winners will have their writing published in an anthology, and they will be guests at an evening *Celebration of Writing Reception*. (Date TBD in early May.) **Teachers may submit 1-3 of the best from a classroom writing assignment, but not writings from all students.** Entries submitted must be original and cannot have been published previously. All entries shall be typed and submitted electronically in **Microsoft Word format**, with the exception of the cover page if necessary, for grades 3-12. **Entries should be no longer than 500 words.**

March 29, 2026: Entry deadline

Late April: Winners will be announced. Reception in early to mid-May. Entries will not be returned, and final pieces may be edited for grammar, punctuation and spelling.

All entries are to reflect the theme.

Guide to Poetry Writing

- shows keen development of this year's theme
- shows imagination and insight
- shows control of formal elements: rhythm, rhyme, meter shows effective use of figurative language

Guide to Narrative Writing

- has a logical sequence of events
- establishes setting effectively
- develops effective characters for the narrative mode displays good mechanical and grammatical control

Guide to Personal Essay

- adheres to this year's theme
- clearly states the writer's main idea
- has a good flow of ideas and details
- diction and tone are appropriate to audience
- syntax and organization are clear, logical, and appropriate
- displays good mechanical and grammatical control

Questions? Email lakotawritechallenge@gmail.com

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