

# 2026 English Department Writing Awards

2026 NYC English Department Willis, Owens, Gill, Cannon, and Rose Writing Awards, and the Academy of American Poets Prize. For questions, contact Awards Director, Eugene Richie: [erichie@pace.edu](mailto:erichie@pace.edu). Results at the [Writing Awards website](#).

Submissions by email only to [nyenglishawards@gmail.com](mailto:nyenglishawards@gmail.com) by Tuesday, April 7, at 11:59 p.m.

## Awards

\$25,000 in awards from the Sarah Willis, Billie and Curtis Owens, Richard Gill, Gerard Cannon, and James Rose funds (former English Department faculty) will be given in Fiction, Poetry, Nonfiction, Writing for Film and Television, Playwriting, Journalism, Writing on Film, Literary Criticism, Linguistic and Rhetorical Analysis, and Comics and Graphic Novels (scripts and essays). The Academy of American Poets Prize (established at Pace by John Ashbery and David Kermani) is awarded in the Poetry category to a poem chosen by the Poetry Committee.

## Eligibility

You must be a NYC undergraduate English or Film and Screen Studies (FSS) major; a minor in Creative Writing, English, Literature, Language and Linguistics, Critical Race and Ethnicity Studies, Classical and Medieval Studies, Translation Studies, or Journalism and Digital Storytelling; a writer or staff for *Aphros* or *Pace Press*; or an undergraduate in any major, who has taken (or is taking) a NYC ENG course *above* ENG 201, a 200 or 300-level LIT course, or any FSS or AMS course, taught by a NYC-based Prof. Also, you must be enrolled in any term during the Pace 2025-2026 academic year.

## Deadline

Tuesday, April 7, at 11:59 p.m. Submissions by email only to [nyenglishawards@gmail.com](mailto:nyenglishawards@gmail.com).

Send one email and attach a separate docx file in that one email for each award category you enter with your cover page first followed by your writing in that category in one file.

**SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS FOR PLAYWRITING AND WRITING FOR FILM AND TELEVISION ENTRIES:** Submit your play or screenplay in a pdf file without your name on it but also attach one additional cover page docx file for each work (i.e., play, screenplay, or television script). Your first email will get a receipt; additional ones will not.

**Work Eligibility:** Published works are eligible but works that won prizes in previous years are not eligible, even if revised.

## Writing Categories

You may submit in multiple categories but include one cover page for each category.

- **FICTION/docx:** 30 double-spaced pages maximum, but no more than 3 pieces, i.e., short stories or part of a novel.
- **POETRY/docx:** 5 poems maximum, but no more than 5 total pages. Begin each poem on a new page with 1 column per page.
- **NONFICTION/docx:** 30 double-spaced pages maximum, but no more than 3 pieces, i.e., personal essays, profiles, memoirs, biography, food, travel, or cultural writing (but not literary criticism, writing on film, book reviews or journalism).
- **WRITING FOR FILM AND TELEVISION** (Use a docx file for your cover page; use only a pdf file for your outline & writing): For feature-length screenplays, 10-30 pages maximum in screenplay format & a 1-page (double-spaced) story outline. For television scripts, a completed spec episode or pilot in standard script format. You can submit entries for both areas.
- **PLAYWRITING** (Use a docx file for cover page; use only a pdf file for analysis & writing): 10-30 pages maximum total for multiple short plays or one long play, in standard play format and for each play, a 1-page analysis of characters, setting, action, and the singular event that sparks the subsequent action.
- **JOURNALISM/docx:** 25 double-spaced pages maximum, but no more than 3 pieces, i.e., news or feature writing; and reviews of current gallery shows, performances, multimedia work, books, theater, or cinema.
- **WRITING ON FILM/docx:** 25 double-spaced pages maximum, but no more than 1 piece, i.e., formal, historical, or theoretical analysis of film (see Journalism for current film reviews).
- **LITERARY CRITICISM/docx:** 30 double-spaced pages maximum, but no more than 3 pieces, i.e., critical essays on literature (see Journalism for reviews of current books; see Comics and Graphic Novels for essays on that genre).
- **LINGUISTIC AND RHETORICAL ANALYSIS/docx:** 15 double-spaced pages maximum, including collections of shorter pieces analyzing linguistic data. Multimodal pieces and posters are also welcome. We especially encourage submissions reflecting linguistic diversity.
- **COMICS AND GRAPHIC NOVELS (Essays)/docx:** 25 double-spaced pages maximum, but no more than 3 essays.
- **COMICS AND GRAPHIC NOVELS (Scripts)/docx:** 25 manuscript pages maximum, but each script comprising at least 8 comics pages.

## Submission Guidelines

Submit one Cover Page in docx format for each writing category you enter. Each Cover Page consists of the following:

- The heading 2026 ENGLISH DEPARTMENT WRITING AWARDS.
- Name of appropriate category (i.e., FICTION).
- Your name; 9-digit student ID or U#; and list your English or FSS Major or your minor in Creative Writing, English, Literature, Language and Linguistics, Critical Race and Ethnicity Studies, Journalism and Digital Storytelling, Classical and Medieval Studies, or Translation Studies. Or if you are a non-English or non-FSS major, list your major and the course #, semester, and year of an ENG course you have taken (or are taking) above ENG 201, a 200 or 300-level LIT course, or any AMS or FSS course you have taken (or are taking) with a NYC prof.; or note that you write for or are staff of *Aphros* or *Pace Press*.
- Email address, phone number(s), and US postal mailing address that is the same as on your Pace Portal. This correct mailing address is important for when checks are mailed.
- Titles of works in this category (Include the titles too on your works without your name).

**Writing Entry: DO NOT put your name on any other page aside from the docx cover page.**

- All writing must be carefully edited and proofread.
- DO NOT include page numbers on any pages.
- Applications must be emailed to [nyenglishawards@gmail.com](mailto:nyenglishawards@gmail.com) by 11:59 p.m., Tuesday, April 7, 2026.
- Awards Ceremony, Friday, May 1, 12-2 p.m. (Bianco), followed by open mic reading.
- Stay up to date at the [Writing Awards website](#).