

McDuffie Museum 2026 Echoes of Independence Literary Competition

Celebrating the 250th Birthday of the United States

Calling all area young writers! The McDuffie Museum invites local students to participate in a writing contest inspired by one of the museum pieces honoring the Semiquincentennial marking 250 years since the signing of the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776.

Who Can Enter?

Students in the following grade groups:

- **Grades 4–6**
- **Grades 7–9**
- **Grades 10–12**

One winner will be selected from each age level group, and one Grand Champion Winner will be chosen from among them. Winners will be notified by Wednesday, May 20 by the phone or email provided.

Writing Guidelines

- **Format:** Poem or short story neatly written or typed (double spaced, 12 point font). Do not include your name or other identifying information on the entry.
- **Length:** Up to 1,000 words
- **Theme:** Inspired by one or more museum pieces on display related to the U.S. 250th or the United States' Semiquincentennial.
- **Original Work Only**
 - Submissions must be the student's own work.
 - Use of A.I. tools is not allowed.
- **Sources:** Must be listed if outside references are used.

- **Judging:** Creativity (40%); Connection to Theme or Inspired Piece (30%) and Mechanics (30%)

Important Note

- *Parent or guardian permission is required.*

Submission Deadline

All entries must be submitted by Friday, May 1, 2026.

How to Submit

Complete the submission form and attach to the student's writing entry. Submissions may be emailed as PDFs to museumdirector350@gmail.com or dropped off at the Museum Tuesday-Saturday between 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

For questions, contact **The McDuffie Museum at 706-595-9923.**

McDuffie Museum Echoes of Independence 2026 Literary Competition Submission Form

Complete the submission form and attach it to the student's writing entry (electronically or by stapling to printed submissions). Do not include the student's name or other identifying information within the writing piece.

Student Information

- Student Name: _____
- Grade (check one):
☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ 6 ☐ 7 ☐ 8 ☐ 9 ☐ 10 ☐ 11 ☐ 12
- School Name (or Homeschool): _____
- Age: _____

Entry Information

- Title of Work: _____
- Type of Entry (check one):
☐ Poem ☐ Short Story
- Word Count (max 1,000): _____
- Museum piece(s) that inspired this work:

Sources (if applicable)

(List books, websites, or other references used)

Required Statements (check all that apply):

- ☐ I certify that this submission is my original work.
- ☐ I did not use artificial intelligence (A.I.) tools to write or edit this entry.
- ☐ I understand that plagiarism will result in disqualification.

Student Signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent/Guardian Permission

I give permission for my child to participate in the McDuffie Museum Writing Contest and allow the museum to display or publish their work with proper credit.

Winners will be contacted using the phone number and email provided below. Prizes will be awarded at the McDuffie Museum's America 250 Celebration to be held Saturday, June 27. Winners are not required to be present, but are strongly encouraged to attend in order to accept their prizes and be recognized at the local celebration.

Parent/Guardian Name: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____