

2025 Sister Rose Thering Fund Annual Literary, Digital & Visual Arts Competition

GENERAL GUIDELINES FOR STUDENTS

1. All entries must relate to the 2025 contest theme: ***Transforming Apathy into Empathy***. Only classroom teachers can submit essays/poems/videos. Individual student submissions will not be considered for judging.
2. Entries must fall into one of the following categories: **Literary Arts** (poetry or essay), **Digital Arts** or **Visual Arts**. All entries must be original and unpublished. No revisions will be accepted once an entry is received. All work must be original and published.
3. Submit your entry to your teacher or school administrator, who will then enter your work into the competition.
4. All entrants must complete the **Entry Form** (which requires signature by the student and a parent or legal guardian). By signing this form, participants and their parents/guardians grant permission to allow the Sister Rose Thering Fund to use their names and submissions in print or internet form.
5. Please ensure that your work follows the specific instructions for its particular category (click links below to see specifics)

- **Specific Instructions - Poems & Essays**

- **Specific Instructions – Digital Art (Videos)**

- **Specific Instructions - Visual Art** (Drawings/Paintings/Sculptures)

6. All entries must be submitted by **Friday, February 6, 2026**, so you will want to submit your work to your teacher before that date. A signed **Entry Form** must accompany all submissions. There will be no exceptions.
7. **JUDGING CRITERIA:** Originality. Relevance to theme and Sister Rose's message. Use of correct grammar, spelling and punctuation. A mention of Sister Rose.
8. Entries will be judged in middle school and high school divisions in the three categories. **Awards will be given to 1st Place and Honorable Mention in each category.**
9. Winners will be notified by **March 13, 2026**.
10. Winners will be recognized at an awards ceremony at Seton Hall University on **Sunday, April 19, 2026**. All winners, their families and their teachers are encouraged to attend.

All entries will be kept on file in the office of the Sister Rose Thering Fund at Seton Hall University and will not be returned to students. Seton Hall University reserves the right to distribute written works submitted for the competition via the University Website or other digital/interactive transmission.