



Dear Principals, Guidance Counselors, English Department Chairs and Teachers,

The Links, Incorporated of Metropolitan DC Chapter cordially invites students in grades 6th -12th to participate in the 2018 Dr. Jean Mosee Young Writers Contest. This program was developed by the chapter in 1982 as the Young Black Writers Contest, after learning about poor test scores in writing among African American high school students. Since then the contest is now open to all students in sixth through twelfth grades. The purpose of the contest is to encourage writing among middle and high school students, especially students of color, and to publicly recognize their literary talents. In thirty-five years, over 2,000 students have participated in the program and there have been more than 200 winners over the life of the program.

Dr. Jean Curl Mosee organized the Metropolitan District of Columbia Chapter of The Links, Inc., along with Dr. Ruth Anderson in August of 1979. The following year the Young Writers Contest was initiated and has served as the signature event for the Metropolitan District of Columbia Chapter.

Dr. Jean Curl Mosee determined early in her career that writing was vital to success. This love of grammar began when Dr. Mosee was a student at Howard University in Washington, DC majoring in German. She always believed that learning a language strengthened one's knowledge and use of English. While teaching German to save money for medical school, her love of writing and poetry solidified. Her students were required to compose stories and recite poems in German.

While at Meharry Medical College in Nashville, Tennessee, Dr. Mosee used writing as a way to relax and rejuvenate, and as such continued writing for pleasure. Later, as a pediatrician in the Washington, DC community, she realized that unless literature was taught and fostered, children would not develop a love of it. In order to bring writing to the community and to students in Washington, DC, Dr. Mosee created a Young Black Writers Contest. Students from local schools were encouraged to write essays and poems, under the direction of their English teachers, and to submit them for a juried contest, which culminated in a presentation of the works at a ceremony in Washington, DC. This event continues today and has been named in honor of Dr. Mosee.

The Links, Incorporated believe and affirm that young minds are challenged to think critically when asked to integrate creativity with written expression. It is exciting to extend this invitation and to partner with you to help students stretch their imagination, exercise their writing skills and compete to win prizes, including cash up to \$500! To learn more about The Links, Incorporated, please visit our website at <http://www.metrodclinks.org>.

Attached are the Dr. Jean Mosee Young Writers Contest program packages, one for Middle School and one for High School. Each package includes 5 pages: Guidelines and Rules for Submission, FAQ Sheet, Teacher Verification Form, Permission to Publish Form, and a contest flier for teachers, administrators, and students. The flier can be copied and posted to announce and draw interest in the contest. Please feel free to contact the co-chairs with any questions at stydc2017@gmail.com.

In the Service to Our Youth,
Simone Frederick
Rhonda Lawrence
Co-Chairs, Services to Youth
The Links, Incorporated
Metropolitan District of Columbia Chapter