



The 17th Student Competition American Studies March 27, 2026

The 17th Student Competition is open to undergraduates and MA students interested in American literature, creative writing and literary translation.

Sections:

1. **AMERICAN LITERATURE.** Participants have to submit a critical essay on one of the works listed below. The chosen text can be approached from various literary or linguistic perspectives.

Short stories:

[“Final Boy” by Sam Lipstye: The New Yorker](#)

[“Mother of Men” by Lauren Groff: The New Yorker](#)

Poems:

[“Self-Portrait in Granulated Sugar” by David Hernandez: Poetry Foundation](#)

[“Erotisme” by Emelia Kamadulski: MAYDAY \(maydaymagazine.com\)](#)

Papers written according to the requirements below and the registration form, including the title of the paper and the first paragraph, will be sent to studentcompetition_ucv@yahoo.com by **March 15, 2026**. No identification information will be written on papers.

If a student quotes any source, be it online or otherwise, (s)he must mark that and use footnotes or risks being disqualified. AI use is prohibited in this competition. Submissions that register as AI generated will not be considered for a prize.

Requirements:

Length: 900-1500 words. Word count does not include the bibliography and footnotes.

Language: English

Format: Paper size: A4
Font: Times New Roman, 12 point
Line spacing 1.5
Alignment: justified
Margins: 1” top, bottom, right and left
Original unique title – top, center, bold, Times New Roman, 14 point

No identification information on the printed version submitted to the committee.

No essay cover page.

Student’s name and other identifying information may appear only on the registration form.

Bibliography:

Bibliography is required to identify the research sources.

At least three books or academic journals are required for research.

- References in the text will be written in parenthesis,

e.g.: (Bauman, 1992); (Bauman, 1992: 23-25); (Bauman 23)

- References at the end of the article will be written as in the following example:

Books, articles or chapters in a book:

Sidel, Ruth. *On Her Own: Growing Up in the Shadow of the American Dream*. New York: Penguin, 1990.

Lakoff, George, and Mark Johnson. *Metaphors We Live By*. Chicago: U of Chicago P, 1980.

Gates, Henry Louis, Jr., ed. *Classic Slave Narratives*. New York: NAL, 1987.

Dabundo, Laura. "'The Voice of the Mute': Wordsworth and the Ideology of Romantic Silences." *Christianity and Literature* 43.1 (1995): 21-35.

Magny, Claude-Edmonde. "Faulkner or Theological Inversion." *Faulkner: A Collection of Critical Essays*. Ed. Robert Penn Warren. Englewood Cliffs: Prentice-Hall, 1966. 66-78.

Alpern, David M. "Has Moscow Violated SALT?" *Newsweek* 22 Oct. 1984: 32.

General Encyclopedia, Wikipedia and other similar Internet sources are not acceptable.

Online sources such as reference books and academic journals are valid sources and must be cited according to the example below:

Article: Ross, Andrew. "Hacking Away at the Counterculture." *Postmodern Culture* 1.1 (1990): 43 pars. 3 May 2003 <http://muse.jhu.edu/journals/postmodern_culture/v001.1ross.html>.

Book: Rawlins, Gregory J. *Moths to the Flame*. Cambridge: MIT P, 1996. *MIT Press*. 30 Aug 2000 <http://mitpress.mit.edu/e-books/moths/>.

For further details, please use: www.wisc.edu/writing/Handbook/DocMLA.html



2. **CREATIVE WRITING.** Participants have to choose a theme and submit a work (poetry, fictional prose or drama) in compliance with the following requirements:

Topics:

1. Freedom of Speech
2. Urban America
3. Immigration and Deportation
4. The Rise of Robots

Poetry: 3 poems; **fiction:** 5-10 pages; **drama:** 10 minute plays (approx. 10 pages)

Language: English

Format:

Paper size: A4

Font: Times New Roman, 12 point

Line spacing 1.5

Alignment: justified

Margins: 1" top, bottom, right and left

Original unique title – top, center, bold, Times New Roman, 14 point

Papers written according to the requirements below and the registration form, including the title of the paper and the first paragraph, will be sent to studentcompetition_ucv@yahoo.com by **March 15, 2026**. No identification information will be written on papers. **AI use is prohibited in this competition. Submissions that register as AI generated will not be considered for a prize.**



3. **LITERARY TRANSLATION.** Participants will have to translate a literary text from English into Romanian. The contest will take place online on **March 20, 2026**. Further information will be announced via e-mail. **AI use is prohibited in this competition. Submissions that register as AI generated will not be considered for a prize.**

Deadline for registration: March 15, 2026

Prizes for all the three sections will be announced on March 27, 2026. The ceremony will be held online and in person. The participants will have to read a short paragraph of their paper, if they registered for the first or the second sections. Venue The American Corner, Craiova. The diplomas of the students who cannot personally take them will be sent by post.

To register and for further information please use the email address:

studentcompetition_ucv@yahoo.com

REGISTRATION FORM to be sent via email:

Section:

Name:

University:

Year of study, specialization:

E-mail address:

Postal address:

Telephone:

Title

First paragraph/stanza:

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Organizing Committee:

Florentina Anghel, University of Craiova

Andreea Bratu, University of Craiova

Mihaela Budică, University of Craiova

Mădălina Cerban, University of Craiova

Estella Ciobanu, Ovidius University of Constanța

Ana Maria Herzal, University of Craiova

Dragoș Ivana, University of Bucharest

Marina Marcus, Fulbright Romania English Teaching Assistant, University of Craiova

Claudia Pisoschi, University of Craiova

Daniela Rogobete, University of Craiova