

JSU Writers Bowl 2026 Essay Competition

Any student who will be competing on a JSU Writers Bowl team may enter an essay in this competition. NO ELECTRONIC SUBMISSIONS.

The student should write an essay according to the following criteria.

1. The essay should be 500-700 words, typed and double-spaced.
2. The essay should be the student's original work. Any use of outside sources must be documented according to current MLA guidelines.
3. The essay must be written about the following topic:

In a persuasive essay directed toward your peers, argue whether a traditional college education is more or less beneficial than alternative career pathways. These alternatives may include attending trade school and earning a professional certification or entering a career field that does not require a college degree. Use evidence and examples to support your position.

Please attach a copy of the form below to each competing essay. For fairness in judging, please be certain that the name of the student appears nowhere on or within the essay itself. Essays must be submitted to Karen Palmer, 227 Stone Center, Jacksonville State University, 700 Pelham Road North, Jacksonville, AL. 36265, **by October 16, 2026**, in order to be entered in the competition. Contact Information for Karen Palmer: 256-782-5411, kapalmer@jsu.edu

Student's Name: _____

Essay Title: _____

School: _____

I verify that this is my own work and that I was not assisted in any way in writing this essay. I also verify that I did not use any form of AI, including ChatGPT. I give permission for possible posting of my essay on the Writers Bowl website.

Student's Signature: _____

I verify that, to the best of my knowledge, this is the student's own work, written independently.

Sponsor's Signature: _____