



For Immediate Release -  
For further information, please contact  
Mary Jane Augusti at:  
[maryjane.augusti@gmail.com](mailto:maryjane.augusti@gmail.com), or  
(413) 348-6125.

## The Agawam Cultural Council announces the winners of their 7th Annual Writing Contest (2020)

(Agawam) The Agawam Cultural Council is pleased to announce the winners of their 7th Writing Contest (2020). The annual competition was revived this year after a brief hiatus. Although held virtually this year, First, Second and Third-place monetary prizes are awarded in the following categories:

**Grades 5-6** - Students were asked to write a composition or a poem about their experiences at home during the Coronavirus Pandemic, and specifically, how they handled online learning with their teachers.

Winning entries in this category were:

- 1st place** (\$50.00): Chelsea Casamento
- 2nd place** (\$25.00): Nico Patuano
- 3rd place** (\$15.00): Hunter O' Connell

**Grades 9-12** - Students were asked whether they thought the COVID 19 lockdown has had a deep and long-lasting impact on them, particularly as it may have affected their health and safety, family concerns, and education. A poem or composition was requested.

Here are the winning writers in this category:

- 1st place** (\$50.00): Grace Payne
- 2nd place** (\$25.00): Eden Berry
- 3rd place** (\$15.00): Devon Thompson

[ Insufficient entries were received from grades K-4 and 7-8 for judging. Fifteen-dollar prizes have been awarded to several students in these categories for their participation.]

The Cultural Council offers its congratulations to the winners, and expresses its deep appreciation to all those students and their families who entered this year's competition. We know that life has been difficult for many during this pandemic. But we encourage these talented students to continue their writing efforts, and look forward to hearing from them -- and many others -- during the **2021 ACC Writing Competition** to be held later this year. Well done!

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The Agawam Cultural Council is an all-volunteer local partner of the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency, and is funded, in part, by the MCC, **although no state monies were used for this competition**. The ACC is charged with bringing engaging, entertaining, and educational events and opportunities in the arts, humanities, and sciences, to children and adults from Agawam and the surrounding communities.

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# Gallery of Winners – 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Writing Competition



Chelsea Casamento



Hunter O'Connell



Grace Payne



Eden Berry

