

Classical Association of Virginia
Arthur F. Stocker Latin Essay Contest
Spring 2026

The contest is free and open to all K–12 Latin students of C.A.V. members.
Encourage your students to participate—for the experience, not just glory

Receipt Deadline: Monday, March 9, 2026

Topics (any topic can be chosen for any of the three levels):

De canibus in vitā litterisque Romanīs
[On dogs in Roman life and literature]
story or essay, as the student wishes

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|--|---------------|
| 1. First-year Latin | 100–200 words |
| 2. Second-year Latin | 200–250 words |
| 3+. Advanced — third-year Latin or above | 250–300 words |

De Medeā
[On Medea]
story or essay, as the student wishes

- | | |
|--|---------------|
| 1. First-year Latin | 100–200 words |
| 2. Second-year Latin | 200–250 words |
| 3+. Advanced — third-year Latin or above | 250–300 words |

Fabula nova (et propria) de aliquā rē (quaecumque tibi libet)
[Story, new (and one's own), on some topic (whatever you like)]

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|--|---------------|
| 1. First-year Latin | 100–200 words |
| 2. Second-year Latin | 200–250 words |
| 3+. Advanced — Third-year Latin or above | 250–300 words |

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Attachment: abecker@vt.edu (PDF or MSWord)
Paper: Dr. Andrew S. Becker
Latin & Ancient Greek Langs, Lits, & Cultures
Modern & Classical Languages & Literatures, Virginia Tech
220 Stanger St. (0225), Blacksburg VA 24061-0225

Since each topic allows for any level, make especially sure that each essay clearly indicates not only the topic (De canibus, Medea, Fabula nova) but also the level (1, 2, 3+) of that particular submission

Eligibility and submission

- Open to students in high schools and preparatory schools in Virginia whose teacher is currently a member of the Classical Association of Virginia and whose dues for the current school year have been paid in full at the time when the entries are submitted
- All entries must be submitted through the Latin teacher, with clarification of the student's level of Latin and years studying Latin.
- No fee for submission of the Latin Essay

Formatting

- The first (cover) page of each entry shall have only:
 - full **name** of contestant
 - **level** of Latin the student is currently in
 - full name of the contestant's **Latin teacher**
 - name and address of the **school** in which the contestant is enrolled
- Contestant's name in the upper right-hand corner of every subsequent page
 - the name of the Latin teacher and the school only on the first (cover) page.

Procedures & rules

- Carefully observe the word-limits (upper and lower limits)
- No help is allowed from any person or AI in the preparation and writing of this essay.
 - Reference works (on-line or print) may be used
 - A bibliography of all reference works that are used must appear at the end of the essay
- Judging will be based on content and Latin usage, but the Latin will be the most important factor
 - Contestants should make an effort to use new features of Latin that they have encountered for the first time on the level of Latin for which they are currently enrolled.
 - Students can consult, for reference, syllabi for the Latin tournament exams for Latin I, II, III
- The judges will choose a top essay and may also choose a second, third, and honorable mentions, as they see fit.
- The decision of the judges will, in all cases, be final.
- The names and rankings of those chosen by the judges in each level will be announced at the spring meeting of the Classical Association of Virginia.
- All entries become the property of the Classical Association of Virginia and will not be returned to the writer after judging. Contestants who want to keep a copy should make one before submission.
- Teachers should inform students that by entering this competition, they are giving the CAV permission to publish their names in any of its official publications. This permission is given unless the students make written requests to the contrary