Sinclair
Community
College

Paul Laurence Dunbar Poetry Contest

Deadline:
March 13, 2026



2026 Theme:
The Mask and What Lies Beneath

"We wear the mask that grins and lies."
- Paul Laurence Dunbar

Explore the masks we wear in daily life--what we hide, what we reveal, and the meanings beneath the surface.

Who Can Enter:

Grades 6-8
Grades 9-12
Adults (18+)



Submission Guidelines:

Up to 3 poems
100 lines max each
Submit electronically to
dunbarpoetrycontest@sinclair.edu

For More Information:

Contact Dr. Sooyoung Chung at sooyoung.chung@sinclair.edu

https://www.sinclair.edu/academics/divisions/lcs/eng/spectrum-awards/paul-laurence-dunbar-poetry-contest/