Virginia Association of Teachers of English (VATE) proudly announces our fourth Literacy Explosion, a language arts festival designed to celebrate and promote the integration of literacy and 21st century learning skills. The Literacy Explosion encourages and rewards Virginia students’ excellence in reading, writing, speaking, presenting, filming, drawing, and acting. The categories showcase students’ expression and expertise in their use of language, communication, and digital media. All Virginia students in grades K-12 are invited to participate in this opportunity to share their language arts talents and abilities.

**Competition Information**

- The Virginia Literacy Explosion is a statewide competition for students in grades K-12.
- Participants receive awards for outstanding products in six categories related to language arts.
- The competition will be held at Longwood University in Farmville, Virginia, on Saturday, March 14, 2015.

**How to Enter Your Student(s)**

- Registration forms may be downloaded and printed from [www.vate.org](http://www.vate.org). Due February 15, 2015.
- There is a $5 per student entry fee, payable to VATE.
- Mail your school registration and fee by February 15 to
  - Robin Smith, Literacy Explosion Chair
  - Longwood University
  - 201 High Street
  - Farmville, VA 23909
  - smithrd@longwood.edu 434.395.2529

**Event Schedule**

- Check-in: 8:30-9:15
- Set up: 9:15-9:30
- Judges Meeting: 9:00-9:30
- Explosion Showcase and Judging: 9:30-11:45
- Break/Snacks: 11:45-12:20
- Award Winning Showcase and Presentation of Awards: 12:20-1:00

**Awards**

- First, second and third place medals will be awarded in each category.
- The school with the most students entered will receive a **Highest Participation Award**.
VATE’s 2015 Literacy Explosion!

Contest Categories

- Click on the description of each event to view a copy of the scoring rubric.
- Each entry will be scored using the project scoring rubric and the participant’s interview.
- Students may submit entries individually or as part of a collaborative team.

Both fiction and nonfiction texts may be used to create the products. Texts may include, but are not limited to narratives, plays, poems, essays, informational texts, and students’ original writing.

INTERVIEWS: For each category, entrants will participate in an interview (View scoring rubric.)

1. BOOK COVERS
   Entrants will design a book cover for a text of his/her choice with the intent to entice readers or market the text. The cover must be created using desktop publishing. (View scoring rubric.)

2. BOOK TRAILER
   Entrants will prepare a video trailer of his/her chosen text. The trailer should be at least two minutes in length, but no more than four minutes long. The trailer must be a positive presentation of the subject. The trailer’s purpose is to persuade the audience to read the text. The trailer must contain original footage and should not contain music from a motion picture soundtrack, if applicable. (View scoring rubric.)

3. PHOTO ESSAY
   Photo essays will depict themes/main ideas or scenes/essential details from a text. Essays should have a minimum of six original photographs and may include quotes or phrases taken from the represented text. (View scoring rubric.)

4. DIGITAL POSTER
   Entrants must use Glogster to depict essential components, including but not limited to theme/main idea, organizational structure, text features, viewpoint, and writer’s craft. (View scoring rubric.)

5. PODCAST
   Entrants create a podcast that creatively interprets the text. Ideas include, but are not limited to having a radio interview of the author or a debate about an idea that is presented in the text. (View scoring rubric.)

6. SCENE IT
   Entrants will pick a pivotal scene from a text to dramatize. Record the scene using digital technology. Props, musical instruments, prerecorded music, costumes, or any other objects of any kind may be used. Performances may be no longer than five minutes. (View scoring rubric.)