

CCAR

9th Annual

Russ Wilson Essay Contest



Russ Wilson was a close, personal friend of CCAR. He was a father, a son, a brother, a friend and a proud man in recovery, who was an inspiration to so many within the recovery community.

Unfortunately, Russ passed away suddenly June 28th, 2014 at just 55 years old. To commemorate the loss of such a valued member of the recovery community, and to celebrate Russ's passion for

writing, CCAR sponsors this annual writing contest and reward authors with a cash prize in his honor.

This year's theme:
'Brave'

To Enter:

Compose an original 1500 (max) word essay that supports this year's theme. Submit your essay online or mail it to 75 Charter Oak Avenue 1-305 Hartford CT, 06106 (Attn: Essay Contest) by the submission deadline of 6/20/25. See complete contest rules for official submission guidelines, eligibility, and judging criteria.

Prizes:

Winners will be announced via Facebook, and awarded the following prizes:

1st Place: \$500

2nd Place: \$250

3rd Place: \$100

Submission Guidelines:

Contest begins at 12:01 am EST on May 1, 2025 and runs through 11:59 pm EST on June 20, 2025. Submissions must be typed, double-spaced, and must not exceed 1,500 words. Essays exceeding this length or handwritten may not be considered. Microsoft Documents/PDFs are preferred. Be sure to include your name, address, and phone number on the essay itself.

Submissions can be submitted via our website or mailed to 75 Charter Oak Avenue Hartford, CT 06106 Attn: Essay Contest Submission. Please be aware that due to the volume of submissions, we cannot send verification that we have received your specific submission by mail. All submitted essays must be original works of nonfiction. Void where prohibited by law. Entries will not be returned.

Eligibility:

Anyone can submit an essay. You do not have to be in personal recovery. CCAR staff, Board and their family members are NOT eligible. Russ' family members, CCAR staff and selected individuals from the recovery community will select the winners. Winning essays, and parts of essays, may be used by CCAR to promote recovery through social media, featured on our podcast, website and printed material.

Judging Criteria:

Originality: 25% Creativity: 25% Use of Language: 25% Appropriateness to Contest Theme: 25%

No supporting materials will be considered, and they cannot be returned to you if you choose to send.

Here are a few pointers from the people who will judge the contest: Stick to the contest theme, double check your spelling, avoid cliché's, don't submit your first draft- it takes a lot of work to craft an award-winning essay.

Questions? Email slucas@ccar.us