



WRITER'S DIGEST

short SHORT story

COMPETITION



WRITER'S DIGEST

WRITER'S DIGEST SHORT SHORT STORY COMPETITION

EARLY-BIRD DEADLINE: 11/16/2020

We're looking for short fiction stories! Think you can write a winning story in 1,500 words or less? Enter the 21st Annual Writer's Digest Short Short Story Competition for your chance to win \$3,000 in cash, get published in *Writer's Digest* magazine, and a paid trip to our ever-popular Writer's Digest Conference!

PRIZES

One First Place Winner will receive:

- \$3,000 in cash
- Their short story title published in *Writer's Digest* magazine's September/October 2021 issue
- A paid trip to the Writer's Digest Annual Conference, including a coveted Pitch Slam slot

The Second Place Winner will receive:

- \$1,500 in cash
- Their short story title published in *Writer's Digest* magazine's September/October 2021 issue

The Third Place Winner will receive:

- \$500 in cash
- Their short story title published in *Writer's Digest* magazine's September/October 2021 issue

Fourth through Tenth Place Winners will receive:

- \$100 off a purchase from the Writer's Digest Shop
- Their short story titles published in *Writer's Digest* magazine's September/October 2021 issue

Eleventh through Twenty-Fifth Place Winners will receive:

- \$50 off a purchase from the Writer's Digest Shop

THE PARTICULARS

Everything you'll need to know has been assembled in an easy to follow PDF; click here: [\[LINK\]](#) to view or print the prospectus. Or, click on the individual links below...

- PRIZES
- DEADLINES, PRICING AND NOTIFICATION
- RULES AND GUIDELINES
- PREPARING YOUR ENTRY
- HOW TO ENTER
- FAQ's
- 2020-2021 COMPETITION SEASON PLANNER

WRITER'S DIGEST

WRITER'S DIGEST SHORT STORY COMPETITION
DEADLINES, PRICING, AND NOTIFICATION



WD's writing competitions recognize writing excellence on a global scale for nearly 90 years! Enter the Writer's Digest Short Short Story Competition for your chance to win! See below for pricing and deadline information. All entry fees are due in U.S. Dollars. Entry fees can be paid online by credit card/debit card (MC, V, AMEX & DISC) or PayPal.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Early-Bird Deadline*: November 16, 2020

\$25 per entry entry.

Regular Deadline*: December 14, 2020

•\$30 per entry.

**All deadlines are at 11:59 PM EST, on the specified date.*

Top Award Winners will be notified by mail before February 28, 2021. Top 10 winners will be listed in the September/October 2021 issue of Writer's Digest. All winners will be listed at www.writersdigest.com after the September/October 2021 issue is published.



WD's writing competitions recognize writing excellence on a global scale for nearly 90 years! Enter the Writer's Digest Short Short Story Competition for your chance to win! Read our rules and guidelines below...

RULES AND GUIDELINES

- All entries must be submitted online. Entries must be accompanied by the required entry fee by credit card or PayPal. Entry fees are non-refundable.
- Your entry must be original, in English, unpublished and unproduced, not accepted by any other publisher or producer at the time of submission. Writer's Digest retains one-time nonexclusive publication rights to the winning entries to be published in a Writer's Digest publication. Any piece posted online, anywhere other than a personal blog, is considered published.
- BE SURE OF YOUR WORD COUNT! Entries exceeding the word limits will be disqualified.
- All submissions are final. Refunds are not provided for disqualified, withdrawn or non-winning entries. Once a submission has been sent, it cannot be edited or replaced.
- Winners must fill out and submit the appropriate tax related forms in order to receive their cash awards. If the forms are not submitted within 60 days of the request date, cash awards may be forfeited.
- Writer's Digest reserves one-time nonexclusive publication rights to the 1st- through 25th-place winning stories to be published in a Writer's Digest publication. Authors retain all ownership of their work.
- Check your spelling carefully including all login information, email addresses etc. Incorrect email addresses may result in the transmission of important information being delayed and/or unsuccessful. Be sure that our email addresses (*Writer's Digest* and *Submittable*) are not blocked, or you may not receive critical information, receipts, confirmations etc. Check your SPAM folder for any expected but unaccounted for email communications.
- The following are not permitted to enter the contest, neither under their legal names nor pen names: employees of Active Interest Media and their immediate family members; Writer's Digest Books authors; Writer's Digest contributing editors and columnists; and Writer's Digest instructors for online courses and live webinars. Grand Prize Winners from the previous three years are not eligible. Ineligible entries will be disqualified.
- Writer's Digest assumes all entries are original and are the works and property of the entrant, with all rights granted therein.
- Writer's Digest is not liable for any copyright infringement on the part of the entrant and will not become involved in copyright disputes.
- Writer's Digest reserves the right to reject work deemed unsuitable for publication or that does not meet all named criteria.
- Winner Notification dates refer to the date that all winners will be notified by. Entrants not selected as winners will not be notified at this time.
- Non-winning submissions will receive a competition status update in the weeks following the notification of winners.
- WD writing competitions are open to U.S. and non-U.S. residents; however, due to U.S. Government restrictions we are unable to accept entries from Syria, Iran, North Korea, or Crimea.



WD's writing competitions recognize writing excellence on a global scale for nearly 90 years! Enter the Writer's Digest Short Short Story Competition for your chance to win! To get started submitting your work, see the helpful tips below...

Preparing Your Entry

We're looking for your best short (and we mean *short*) stories! Think you can write a winning story in 1,500 words or less? Here's how to get started...

- All entries must be submitted online through [Submittable](#). If you already have a [Submittable](#) account, simply log in!
- Please be sure that the email address that you provide will be valid throughout the competition span. Competition related updates and winner notifications are sent via email. Please type carefully and list only one email address. Check your spelling carefully including all login information, email addresses etc. Incorrect email addresses may result in the transmission of important information being delayed and/or unsuccessful. Be sure that our email addresses (*Writer's Digest* and *Submittable*) are not blocked, or you may not receive critical information, receipts, confirmations etc. Check your SPAM folder for any expected but unaccounted for email communications.
- Please submit text only; illustrations are not accepted. We recommend that you select a font which is easy to read; please do not use a decorative or script font. 12-point type size is preferred but not mandatory. We have no requirements as to the number of words per page. We have no rules or requirements regarding subject matter or language etc.
- It is preferred that an entry be formatted as Letter, 8.5 x 11, single sided, Normal 1-inch margins. All documents must be double-spaced.
- The submission file (both the story itself as well as the file name) should not include any identifying information. We recommend that you avoid adding symbols/punctuation in file names of the document file which you are uploading. Files are not returned.
- Entries exceeding the line limit will be disqualified. *Line count* refers to all lines containing text. Do not count blank lines between stanzas. Do not count the title in the line count.
- When filling out the online submission form, you will be asked to upload your entry file. Acceptable file formats include doc, docx, rtf and pdf. Do not attach zipped files, or documents stored on the web like Google doc's etc. File types such as .wps, .pages, .abw and .scw will not be accepted. File size should not exceed 5 MB. Please submit your files saved under the same title as your submission.
- To upload your file, click the CHOOSE FILE button, locate your entry file on your computer & attach it. Because you are attaching a file- you are not able to edit the entry once it has been attached; edits should be done prior to uploading the file.



WD's writing competitions recognize writing excellence on a global scale for nearly 90 years! Here's how to Enter!

ENTERING IS EASY!

Create your free [Submittable](#) account by clicking the *SUBMIT* button. If you already have a [Submittable](#) account, simply log in!

**NEW* You can now compete in multiple WD competitions with a single login! Check back often for an updated list of competitions.*

When you are ready to submit your work to the **WD Short Short Story Competition** readers, you'll want to have the following information available:

- ✓ **Your contact information** (*be careful that the information provided is accurate*). Contact information is to be provided only on the submission form (not on the submission's file upload). Time sensitive information such as credits and contact information (for prize distribution) is taken directly from the submission form. Due to the nature of deadlines, corrections to this information are not guaranteed.
- ✓ **Your WD Short Short Story Competition submission file** (*see the PREPARING YOUR ENTRY tips for more information*).
- ✓ **Your method of payment** (*see the ENTRY PRICING, SUBMISSION DEADLINES AND WINNER NOTIFICATION page for tips for all pricing and deadlines*).

Ready to enter? Go to: <https://writersdigest.submittable.com/submit/170290/short-short-story-competition-2021> to enter!



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ANSWERS TO FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS...

For all Writer's Digest Competition related questions and queries, please contact the WD Competitions coordinator Nicole Howard at: writersdigestwritingcompetition@aimmedia.com

Having troubles logging in? For help, go to: <https://submittable.help/en/articles/923459-how-do-i-sign-in-to-my-submittable-account>

Are there any restrictions regarding content, language, subject matter etc.? No, we do not have any restrictions or preferences.

Is it okay to have illustration or pictures? Please submit text only.

How do I determine my word count? Count all words that contain text making up your story (no matter the number of letters in the word). Do not include the entry title in your count.

What are your formatting requirements – any other tips? To best present your work, we suggest that you select a font that is easy to read; 12-point type size is preferred but not mandatory. We have no requirements as to the number of words per page. It is preferred that an entry be formatted to or printed on 8.5 x 11 white paper, single sided, 1-inch margins. We prefer any standard-formatting styles (although non-conforming entries will not be disqualified).

Are pen names allowed? You may enter under a pen name. Include your pen name on all forms as you would wish for them to appear in any credits. Please be advised (and advise us of it if you are notified as a winner) that we only need your legal name if you are chosen as a winner (in order to issue prizes).

What if I wanted to submit only part of my story into the competition (in order to stay within the maximum number of lines for example)?

If you submit a portion of a larger work, please understand that what you submit will be judged as a complete story, not part of a larger work. Your submission needs to read as a complete story in and of itself.

What if I would like to edit or exchange an entry that I have already submitted?

Edits must be done prior to entering. Once an entry has been submitted, we do not accept edits, replacements or exchanges. If you wish to re-enter an edited piece, it is most acceptable and is considered to be a new entry. You may wish to slightly alter the entry title or the file name in these cases, so that you are able to identify the versions-should you be selected as a winner.

Is there an age limit for entrants?

All contest entrants must be aged 18 years or older or over the age of majority in the jurisdiction in which they reside.

How do I submit my entry fees? All entry fees are due in U.S. Dollars. Entry fees can be paid online by credit card/debit card (MC, V, AMEX & DISC) or PayPal.

Once the competition is over, will you return my entry? Entries are not returned; please keep a copy for your records.



WD ANNUAL WRITING COMPETITION

Early-Bird Deadline: May 4, 2020

- Poetry entry—\$20 for the first entry; \$15 for each additional poetry entry.
- Manuscript entry—\$30 for the first entry; \$25 for each additional manuscript entry.

Regular Deadline: June 5, 2020

- Poetry entry—\$25 for the first entry; \$20 for each additional poetry entry.
- Manuscript entry—\$35 for the first entry; \$30 for each additional manuscript entry.

WD POETRY AWARDS

Early-Bird Deadline: October 1, 2020

- First entry—\$20
- Each additional entry—\$15

Regular Deadline: November 2, 2020

- First entry—\$25
- Each additional entry—\$20

WD SELF-PUBLISHED BOOK AWARDS

Early-Bird Deadline: April 10, 2020

- First entry—\$99
- Each additional entry—\$85

Regular Deadline: May 1, 2020

- First entry—\$125
- Each additional entry—\$95

NEW! WD PERSONAL ESSAY AWARDS

Early-Bird Deadline: September 15, 2020

- All entries—\$25
- Each additional entry—\$20

Regular Deadline: October 15, 2020

WD SHORT SHORT STORY COMPETITION

Early-Bird Deadline: November 16, 2020

- Each entry—\$25

Regular Deadline: December 14, 2020

WD SELF-PUBLISHED EBOOK AWARDS

Early-Bird Deadline: August 17, 2020

- First entry—\$99
- Each additional entry—\$85

Deadline: September 21, 2020

- First entry—\$125
- Each additional entry—\$95