



2018 Youth Conference – Write Ahead Contests

All entries must come from registered conference attendees. If you plan to submit, please register beforehand. Individuals are limited to one entry (not per contest – one entry total). Individuals from the same group may submit to the same contest; each individual, regardless of affiliation, may submit only one contest entry.

Submit all entries digitally via tbyouthwriters.com/contest-info

Deadline: Sunday October 28th before Midnight

Email icewriters@gmail.com for questions

Contests for Elementary Writers (Up to 5th Grade)

1. **Poetry** – Little things matter too! Write a tiny poem (5 lines or less) about tiny things. It can be anything small in the world, like a penny, a leaf, a bug, or anything else that's miniature. Make it feel big using your words.
2. **Short Story (Fiction)** – Begin your story "As we entered the graveyard, we..." Entries must be between 350 and 1000 words

Contests for Middle School Writers (Grades 6-8)

1. **Poetry** – Write a poem that evokes ALL the senses. 20 lines or less.
2. **Short Story (Fiction)** – Begin your story with the sentence: "The city gates opened to something quite unusual." Entries must be between 500 and 2000 words.
3. **Non-fiction** – Title your piece "The Lasting Effects of _____" and fill in the blank with an event from history. In your piece, discuss how that event continues to affect our day-to-day lives. Entries must be 800 words or less.

Contests for High School and Undergraduate Writers (Grades 9+)

1. **Memoir Poetry** – Write about the first time you experienced something. Your poem need not begin "the first time" but it must be clear from the beginning what experience you are writing about.
2. **Short Story (Fiction)** – Your character wakes up to find themselves in a "strange" place. Entries must be between 1,500 and 6,000 words.
3. **Non-fiction** – Write a journalistic essay on a big idea of your choosing. Blend research with narrative techniques as you explore a topic from a fresh angle. Must acknowledge your sources. Entries must be 1000 words or less.
4. **Fiction Screenplay** – Leo Tolstoy said, "The best stories don't come from 'Good versus Bad' but 'Good versus Good.'" Write a story of 'Good versus Good.' Entries must be in proper screenplay format and between 5 and 15 pages.

Visit tbyouthwriters.com/contest-info or follow us on twitter @tbyouthwriters for tips, info about the judges and other useful information