



September 2019 - August 2020 Competitions Overview

Dear Educators,

To help you and your students plan ahead, we are pleased to provide a brief synopsis of each of our upcoming monthly competitions. When the competition opens, full details (along with rubrics and resources) will be published on the *Write the World* website (writetheworld.com). If you have any questions about upcoming competitions, please email us at hello@writetheworld.com. These summaries are also available on the [competitions page](#) on our website.

Wishing you and your students a wonderful year of writing,
The Write the World Team

September: Personal Narrative Competition

All of us, no matter our histories or proclivities, are tied to others. As the novelist Haruki Murakami writes: “A person’s life may be a lonely thing by nature, but it is not isolated. To that life other lives are linked.” What are the links in your life? This month, in our ongoing partnership with [Thrive on Campus](#), we’re asking you to write a personal essay centered on the concept of human connection. How do they form or fade, strengthen or stretch? Facets of connection are forged and tested every day—we can’t wait to read about what ties matter most to you.

Writing Form: Personal Reflection

Subject Areas: Creative Writing, Literature/English, Personal Development

Length: 600-1000 words

Opens: Monday, September 9

Submissions Due: Thursday, September 26

October: Album Review Competition

“He wrote about music to understand what being alive means.”

~ Writer Marc Woodworth, speaking about the famous music journalist, Lester Bangs

Why does a particular song or album mean so much to you? How does it change the way you look at yourself or the world around you? How does the musician’s style or sound inspire you? This month, share your favorite music through the written word. Write a review of your favorite album, considering the artist’s influences, his or her previous work, and the broader social and/or musical context in which the artist (or group) operates.

Writing Form: Review

Subject Areas: Music, Journalism, Literature/English, Media Arts

Length: 600-1000 words

Opens: Monday, October 7

Submissions Due: Tuesday, October 22

November: Novel Writing Competition

Have you ever wanted to step into someone else’s shoes? See the world through a child’s eyes? Live on a desert island? Run a Parisian cafe in the 1700’s? Novel writing, dear writers, is about shedding your identity and inhabiting the experiences of an imagined character. But a novel also requires looking inward. Contained within each of our interior lives are elements of the human condition that we must conjure up for our fictional characters. Imagine examining your inner world while simultaneously studying the world around you—this is the essence of novel writing. This month, explore the human experience through writing, and share an excerpt with us.

Writing Form: Fiction

Subject Areas: Creative Writing, Literature/English

Length: 600-1000 words

Opens: Monday, November 4

Submissions Due: Tuesday, November 19

December: My December Writing Competition

December is a month full to the brim. These 31 days contain ritual and family, celebration and contemplation, giving and receiving, traveling and staying put. In Adelaide, Australia, December marks the beginning of summer, sun drenched and hot. In Calgary, Canada, December is icy and dark, the light draining from the sky by mid-afternoon. This last page on the Gregorian calendar

inspires both reflection on the year past and projection into the year to come. Tell us, what does December mean to you?

Writing Form: Creative Nonfiction, Personal Narrative

Subject Areas: Creative Writing, Literature/English, Personal Development

Length: 600-1000 words

Opens: Monday, November 25

Submissions Due: Tuesday, December 10

January: Writing for Children Competition

Be it *Paddington Bear*, *Make Way for Ducklings* or *Where the Wild Things Are*—the stories of our childhood are magically imprinted on our mindscapes, as if a scene or rhyme or character were not just written in the pages of a favorite book, but actually living parts of our experience. This month write your own tale for children. You have the option to include illustrations to accompany your story.

Writing Form: Narrative

Subject Areas: Creative Writing, Literature/English, Poetry

Length: 50-1000 words

Opens: Monday, January 6

Submissions Due: Tuesday, January 21

February: Environmental Writing Competition

What are the most important environmental issues of our time? What hopes and fears do you have for our planet? Given your inheritance of this earth and the momentous time brought on by climate change, it is no surprise that this past year generated a surge of young voices broadcasting environmental awareness and demanding change. Now it's your turn. This month, investigate an environmental issue close to home, and then tell us about it in a piece of groundbreaking journalism. From the shifting migration patterns of your backyard songbirds to neighborhood efforts to combat sound pollution to the water shortages in your city—we can't wait to hear your voices on an environmental subject that matters to you. You have the option to include an audio recording with your submission.

Writing Form: Journalism

Subject Areas: Journalism, Science, History

Length: 600-1000 words

Opens: Monday, February 3

Submissions Due: Tuesday, February 18

March: Op-Ed Competition

It's time to pick up a pen and share your opinion with the masses. Perhaps the most democratic form of journalism, the op-ed is founded on the idea that every person has a voice worthy of a public platform. So tell us what change you would like to see in the world, in your country, or in your community. From the global plight of refugees to federal education policy to activism in your neighborhood—we want to hear your opinion about something that matters to you.

Writing Form: Opinion

Subject Areas: Civics, Economics, Journalism, Literature/English, Science, Social Studies

Length: 600-1000 words

Opens: Monday, March 2

Submissions Due: Tuesday, March 17

April: Poetry and Spoken Word Competition

“Poetry lays the foundations for a future of change,” wrote Audre Lorde. From the lines of Langston Hughes ushering in the Harlem Renaissance, to women in modern-day Afghanistan secretly sharing their poems over social media, to spoken word artists calling for change in our streets and schools, poetry has long celebrated the rhythms of language and the right of self-expression. This month, sow your own seeds of change, conjuring poetry into stanzas, meter, or free verse; or with an original piece of spoken word (poetry performed aloud). We'll award two top prizes—one for a written poem, and one for a recorded performance.

Writing Form: Poetry

Subject Areas: Creative Writing, Literature/English, Performing Arts, Social Studies

Length: 500-word maximum

Opens: Monday, April 6

Submissions Due: Tuesday, April 21

May: Play Writing Competition—One-Act Play

Step onto the Write the World stage this month with your own one-act play. Composed of a single scene or a series of scenes, the one-act delivers a powerful punch. Like the short story, this genre requires the writer—you!—to make every word count, every gesture, intonation, and stage direction. This month, raise the curtain on an important event or experience that will change the characters involved, and let the drama unfold.

Writing Form: Play Writing

Subject Areas: Drama, Creative Writing, Literature/English, Performing Arts

Length: 600-1000 words

Opens: Monday, May 4

Submissions Due: Tuesday, May 19

June: Food Writing Competition

Attention writers! If you think food writing is all five-star restaurant ratings and reviews of overpriced escargot and the velvet pioppini (that's a mushroom), read on. Food—and the way we grow, source, prepare, eat, and write about it—is so much more. Food links us to our families, our histories, our culture, our health, our environment, our bodies... and to tradition, ritual, and celebration. As the food journalist and cookbook author Ramin Ganeshram puts it, “it’s not really about the food.” This month, write an essay about food and so much more. We hungrily await your entry.

Writing Form: Creative Nonfiction

Subject Areas: Geography, History, Journalism, Literature/English, Science, Social Studies

Length: 600-1000 words

Opens: Monday, June 1

Submissions Due: Tuesday, June 16

July: Sports Writing Competition

A rundown of that remarkable win from the underdogs? A feature piece on a nontraditional coach? An op-ed on the representation of women in sports media? This month, as the Summer Olympics begin in Tokyo, help us kick off our Sports Writing Competition. From surfing rules and etiquette to the ethical issues around performance enhancing drugs, the field of sports writing is yours to play on.

Writing Form: Journalism

Subject Areas: Journalism, Opinion, Social Studies

Length: 600-1000 words

Opens: Monday, July 6

Submissions Due: Tuesday, July 21

August: Flash Fiction Competition

“There was more room to think,” wrote novelist David Gaffney on becoming a flash fiction convert, “more space for the original idea to resonate, fewer unnecessary words to wade through.” Stories of the sudden/skinny/mini/micro variety pack the best parts of fiction into brimming, half-pint packages. Celebrate the art of concision this month and write a story in 99 words or less.

Writing Form: Fiction

Subject Areas: Creative Writing, Literature/English

Length: 99-word maximum

Opens: Monday, August 3

Submissions Due: Tuesday, August 18