



SEPTEMBER 2018 – AUGUST 2019 COMPETITIONS

Dear Educators,

To help you and your students plan ahead, we are pleased to provide a brief synopsis of each monthly competition below. At the beginning of each month, full competition 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: Environmental Writing Competition

Thirty-five years ago, *The New York Times* defined nature writing as a “historically recent literary genre, and, in a quiet way, one of the most revolutionary.” Writing about nature (and our relationship to the environment) is no longer a new concept, but the genre has only become more revolutionary with time. Given your inheritance of this earth and the momentous time brought on by climate change, your voices on this topic deserve to be heard. In a poem or short reflection, write about our home, planet Earth. Perhaps you’ll consider the smog that regularly closes your school, how the environment you live in has changed since you were a kid, or the bird song that wakes you each morning.

Writing Form: Poem or Reflection

Subject Areas: Creative Writing, History, Journalism, Literature/English, Poetry, Science, Social Studies.

Length: 600-word maximum

Competition Opens: September 3, 2018

Final Entries Due: September 18, 2018

October: Speech Writing Competition

“I have a dream,” Martin Luther King said on August 28, 1963. Powerful words like these are burned into our collective memory, catalyzing social change, inspiring movements, and sparking courage. Words that are written to be spoken are charged with a particular power—crafted to come alive when delivered to an audience. This month, dear writers, compose a speech of your own. Before you start writing, ask yourself what it is you really want to communicate. What do you feel passionate about? What cause or position do you hope others will join you in spreading? What is the message you hope to convey, and why is it so important?

Writing Form: Persuasive writing/Oration

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

Length: 600–1,000 words

Competition Opens: October 1, 2018

Final Entries Due: October 16, 2018

November: Novel Writing Competition

Have you ever wanted to assume another identity? Live through a historical event? Explore the Arctic Circle? Novel writing is about personally inhabiting the world of your characters, no matter how different from your own reality. But a rich and convincing narrative also requires looking inward—drawing upon your own experience and interior life to find elements of the human condition that you can offer to your fictional characters. This November, join thousands of other writers in the honorable pursuit of novel writing (it’s National Novel Writing Month!), and then submit an excerpt to us.

Writing Form: Fiction

Subject Areas: Creative Writing, Literature/English

Length: 600–1,000 words

Competition Opens: November 5, 2018

Final Entries Due: November 20, 2018

December: My December Writing Competition

The last month of the year is a chance to take stock of where you are, where you've been, and where you're going. For many, these 31 days contain ritual and family, celebration and contemplation, gift giving and gift receiving, traveling and staying put. There's the longest day of the year for some of you and the shortest for others—and the ushering in of another rotation around the sun. Write a piece of creative nonfiction (a personal essay or personal narrative) about your December, and all that it signifies.

Writing Form: Creative Nonfiction, Essay/Reflection, Personal Narrative

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

Length: 600–1,000 words

Competition Opens: November 26, 2018

Final Entries Due: December 11, 2018

January: Film Review Competition

Need an excuse to go out to the movies? Review a film for the Write the World audience. Eight out of ten moviegoers read reviews before deciding which film to see, and we want to read yours. Share with us the merits of storyline and plot, and the nitty-gritty on cinematography, editing, and screenplay. After carefully considering the intricacies, turn your gaze to the magic of the whole and how all the various components come together to make meaning.

Writing Form: Film Review

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

Length: 600–1,000 words

Competition Opens: January 7, 2019

Final Entries Due: January 22, 2019

February: Book Review Competition

How do we decide what to read? Sometimes a book beckons us with a clever title or flashy cover, but more often we read on recommendation—a personal endorsement from a friend or family member . . . or a stranger who touts their “must reads” in a book

review. This month, plant your favorite pages in the hands of hungry readers by telling us what book has captured your heart and why.

Writing Form: Criticism (aka admiration)

Subject Areas: Criticism, Journalism, Literature/English,

Length: 600–1,000 words

Competition Opens: February 4, 2019

Final Entries Due: February 19, 2019

March: Op-Ed Writing Competition

Do you ever feel like you have something to say but nowhere to say it? A worthy opinion that needs to be shared? This month, we're giving you the floor. The op-ed is founded on the idea that every person has a voice worthy of a public platform. What change would you like to see in the world? In your country? In your community? From your school's elections to your country's leaders to climate change; 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: 600–1,000 words

Competition Opens: March 4, 2019

Final Entries Due: March 19, 2019

April: Poetry and Spoken Word Competition

"Poetry lays the foundations for a future of change," wrote Audre Lorde. From Allen Ginsberg inspiring a generation of nonconformity, to young women around the world reciting poetry for "International Day of the Girl," to spoken word artists calling for change in our streets and schools, poetry has long celebrated the rhythms of language and the right to self-expression, all while sowing the seeds for revolution. This month, give us the world in a new form, 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

Competition Opens: April 1, 2019
Final Entries Due: April 16, 2019

May: Food Writing Competition

Food—and the way we grow, source, prepare, and eat it—links us to our families, our histories, our culture, our health, our environment, and our bodies . . . not to mention to tradition, ritual, and celebration! This month, we invite you to move food to the front burner. Whether you write about a family tradition, food miles, or the history of kimchi, we hungrily await your entry.

Writing Form: Essay/Reflection, Personal Narrative
Subject Areas: Geography, History, Journalism, Literature/English, Science, Social Studies
Length: 600–1,000 words

Competition Opens: May 6, 2019
Final Entries Due: May 21, 2019

June: Fantasy Writing Competition

Since the very first fairytale, the idea of mysterious worlds has captivated readers. Fantasy stirs our imaginations, inviting us to think outside the limits of the life we know. As a fantasy writer, you have the extraordinary and exciting task of reimagining the world. Perhaps this means revealing a fantastical element hidden within our “reality”—*Alice in Wonderland*, for example, or *A Midsummer Night’s Dream*. Or perhaps you will dream up an entirely different world, like *Harry Potter* or *The Lord of the Rings*. In a fantasy short story, take your readers on a journey into a re-imagined world.

Writing Form: Fiction
Subject Areas: Creative Writing, Literature/English
Length: 600–1,000 words

Competition Opens: June 3, 2019
Final Entries Due: June 18, 2019

July: Songwriting Competition

Since the early utterances of human language, we've been putting words to music—belting anthems of change, humming hymns of hope, crooning lyrics of love. Songs can tell stories, evoke emotion, even deliver lessons. Before the written word, songs served as a historical record, passing information down through the generations. Put to music, words have the power to penetrate our thick skin and hold our wandering attention, and we now know that music stimulates more corners of the brain than any other activity, firing even those neurons damaged by stroke or disease. This month, write a song of your own—and record it if you'd like! We'll select a winner for best lyrics and best performance.

Writing Form: Lyrics

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

Length: 500-word maximum

Competition Opens: July 1, 2019

Final Entries Due: July 16, 2019

August: Flash Fiction Competition

Can you write a story in 99 words or less? Flash fiction draws on the brevity of poetry and the story-arc of novels, compressing the very best parts of fiction into very small packages. Join us this month by writing your own narrative flash!

Writing Form: Fiction

Subject Areas: Creative Writing, Literature/English

Length: 99-word maximum

Competition Opens: August 5, 2019

Final Entries Due: August 20, 2019