



WD WRITER'S DIGEST

short **SHORT** story  
COMPETITION

EARLY-BIRD DEADLINE  
November 15, 2023

# WRITER'S DIGEST

# WRITER'S DIGEST SHORT SHORT STORY COMPETITION

## EARLY-BIRD DEADLINE: 11/15/2023

We're looking for short fiction stories! Think you can write a winning story in 1,500 words or fewer? Enter the 24th 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 2024 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 2024 issue

#### The Third Place Winner will receive:

- \$500 in cash
- Their short story title published in *Writer's Digest* magazine's September/October 2024 issue

#### Fourth through Tenth Place Winners will receive:

- \$100 in cash
- Their short story titles published in *Writer's Digest* magazine's September/October 2024 issue

#### Eleventh through Twenty-Fifth Place Winners will receive:

- A \$50 gift certificate for [writersdigestshop.com](http://writersdigestshop.com)

### 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.

- PRIZES
- DEADLINES, PRICING AND NOTIFICATION
- RULES AND GUIDELINES
- PREPARING YOUR ENTRY
- HOW TO ENTER
- FAQ's
- 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 over 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 15, 2023**

\$30 per entry entry.

#### **Regular Deadline\*: December 15, 2023**

•\$35 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, 2024.** Top 10 winners will be listed in the September/October 2024 issue of Writer's Digest. All winners will be listed at [www.writersdigest.com](http://www.writersdigest.com) after the September/October 2024 issue is published.

# WRITER'S DIGEST

## WRITER'S DIGEST SHORT STORY COMPETITION RULES AND GUIDELINES



WD's writing competitions recognize writing excellence on a global scale for over 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. Previous winning manuscripts from this and other WD competitions are ineligible except in the case of substantial rewrites. 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.
- Entrants not selected as winners will not be individually notified; check the MESSAGES tab in Submittable for any related messaging in the weeks following notification.
- 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 over 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 fewer? 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 the email address that you provide will be valid throughout the competition span. Competition-related updates and winner notifications are sent via email. Competition-related updates and winner notifications are sent via: email and/or the Submittable messaging feature. 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 as well as the MESSAGES tab within your Submittable account for any expected but unaccounted for communications.
- Please submit text only; illustrations are not accepted. We recommend that you select a font that 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, with 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 over 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!

When you are ready to submit your work to the **Writer's Digest 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 Writer's Digest 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).*



WD's writing competitions recognize writing excellence on a global scale for over 90 years!

### 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](mailto: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.

**Do you allow simultaneous submissions?** Yes, simultaneous submissions are certainly allowed. Simply inform us of acceptance elsewhere, if applicable.

**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.

# WRITER'S DIGEST

# 2023-2024 COMPETITION SEASON PLANNER



The Writer's Digest collection of competitions, all which are held on a yearly basis, have long-standing respect within the writing community. Over ninety years ago, Writer's Digest launched its first writing competition. Today, Writer's Digest holds six competitions, with a combined twenty-eight categories. Honoring writers across a variety of genres and formats including short pieces (fiction and non-fiction), poetry, performance scripts, articles (print or online) and self-published books, Writer's Digest has a competition to highlight your work. Winners are eligible for cash prizes, free trips to our ever-popular Writer's Digest Annual Writing Conference, promotion in our print magazine and website, and more. We hope that you'll join us and share your work in any (better yet--all) of the competitions! Sharpen your pencils, sync your devices, and mark your calendars!

## WD ANNUAL WRITING COMPETITION

### Early-Bird Deadline: May 6, 2024

- 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 3, 2024

- 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 2, 2023

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

### Regular Deadline: November 1, 2023

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

## WD SELF-PUBLISHED BOOK AWARDS

### Early-Bird Deadline: April 1, 2024

- First entry—\$100
- Each additional\* entry—\$85

### Regular Deadline: May 1, 2024

- First entry—\$125
- Each additional\* entry—\$110

## NEW! WD PERSONAL ESSAY AWARDS

### Early-Bird Deadline: September 1, 2023

- All entries—\$25

### Regular Deadline: October 2, 2023

- All entries—\$30

## WD SHORT SHORT STORY COMPETITION

### Early-Bird Deadline: November 15, 2023

- All entries—\$25

### Regular Deadline: December 15, 2023

- All entries—\$30

## WD SELF-PUBLISHED E-BOOK AWARDS

### Early-Bird Deadline: August 15, 2023

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

### Deadline: September 15, 2023

- First entry—\$125
- Each additional\* entry—\$110

\*Additional entry discounts only apply after submitting and checking out your first entry. All deadlines are at 11:59 PM EST, on the specified date. All payments must be submitted at the time of entry.