

WRITE NOW

The University of Iowa Alumni and Friends'
48-Hour Flash Writing Contest
January 16-18, 2026

They say everyone has a story to tell. This winter, we'd love to read yours.

The University of Iowa is hosting its annual Alumni and Friends Flash Writing Contest—a timed, online short story competition. We'll provide you with a writing prompt that includes a genre, character, and a specific object to incorporate into your story. You'll have 48 hours and up to 1,000 words to come up with the rest.

Contest Categories

- Grades 3-4
- Grades 5-6
- Grades 7-8
- Grades 9-12
- Current UI Student
- Adult

How it works:

- **Theme:** A prompt that includes a character, an object, and genre to incorporate into your story will be posted on the Write Now website (foriowa.org/write-now) on Friday, January 16 at 4:00 p.m. CST
- **Length:** The maximum length for each short story is 1,000 words, not including the title page. Entries with more than 1,000 words will be disqualified.
- **Submit:** Before Sunday, January 18 at 4:00 p.m. CST, submit your entry online at: foriowa.org/write-now

Entries for minor-aged contest participants (under age 18) must be submitted by a parent or guardian.

Win Fabulous Prizes

One winner in each age category will receive an Iowa writing pack and a Bookshop.org gift card.

More information about the Flash Writing contest and full contest rules, visit:
foriowa.org/write-now

Questions?

Contact Tegan Donahue, Assistant Director, Alumni Engagement, University of Iowa Center for Advancement
Email: Write.Now@foriowa.org; Phone: 319-467-3393; Address: One West Park Rd., Iowa City, IA 52242

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