

# WRITE NOW

The University of Iowa Alumni and Friends'  
**Microstory Writing Contest**

July 13-24, 2026

*They say everyone has a story to tell—even in just 100 words.*

*This summer, we'd love to read yours.*

*This summer, spark your creativity with the University of Iowa's Microstory Contest. Choose one of two photo prompts and turn it into a powerful 100-word story. Short, imaginative, and fun—no experience required.*

## Contest Categories

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

### How it works:

- **Theme:** Two photo prompts will be posted on the Write Now website ([foriowa.org/write-now](http://foriowa.org/write-now)) on Monday, July 13 at 9 a.m. Choose one to inspire your story.
- **Length:** The maximum length for each microstory is 100 words. Entries exceeding 100 words will be disqualified.
- **Submit:** Deadline: Friday, July 24 at 4:00 p.m. CST. Submit at [foriowa.org/write-now](http://foriowa.org/write-now)

Entries for participants under age 18 must be submitted by a parent, guardian, or teacher. Teachers, please email for more information about the bulk submission process.

### Win Fabulous Prizes

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

For more information about the Flash Writing contest and full contest rules, visit:  
[foriowa.org/write-now](http://foriowa.org/write-now)

### Questions?

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

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