

UI WRITE NOW HAWKEYE HAIKU CONTEST RULES (2025)

The University of Iowa Center for Advancement Privacy Statement

At the UI Center for Advancement, we are committed to being good stewards of your personal information and ensuring it is collected, used, and secured appropriately. The UI Center for Advancement Privacy Statement may be read in its entirety through the following [link](#). The information in this privacy statement summarizes our policy, procedures, and practices as it relates to your personal information. If you have any questions or comments about our privacy practices or compliance efforts, please contact Rebekah Tilley, assistant vice president of communication and marketing, at 319-467-3491 or privacy@foriowa.org.

Minor Contestants

The parent or legal guardian of any minors (defined as ages 0–17) interested in participating in the contest must complete the registration form and provide consent to the UI Center for Advancement to collect and use the minor's information. If consent is not provided, the minor will not be allowed to participate in the contest. The information to be collected and used includes the minor's: first name, last initial, state or country, and contest entry.

Information on minors collected will be expunged once the contest has concluded.

If a minor should win in their age group (grades 3 & 4, 5 & 6, 7 & 8, and 9–12), then the minor's first name, first letter of their last name, state or country, (e.g. Jane D., Iowa) and their entry will be posted to the contest website (foriowa.org/write-now). The prize will be sent to the parent/legal guardian completing the registration form at the address provided.

Eligibility to Participate

The contest is free and open to UI alumni, students, faculty, staff, and friends of all ages. Entrants must submit their entry between Monday, November 3, 2025, at 9 a.m. CST and Friday, Nov. 14, 2025, at 4 p.m. CST. Once the registration is completed online, an automatic confirmation will be displayed.

Contest Schedule

The contest begins on Monday, November 3, 2025, at 9 a.m. CST, and runs through Friday, Nov. 14, 2025, at 4 p.m. CST. The winners will be announced on Monday, Dec. 15, 2025, at 9 a.m. CST.

Entry Guidelines

Contestants must develop a traditional haiku that evokes the contest theme, "milestone." The contestant may interpret "milestone" in many ways—for example, a big achievement, a special celebration, or a moment you'll never forget.

Haiku has evolved throughout time, but contestants should follow the traditional 5-7-5 syllable pattern. The structure of their haiku should capture the following:

- It should be only three lines, totaling 17 syllables:
 - The first line should be five syllables.
 - The second line should be seven syllables.
 - The third line should be five syllables.

- Punctuation and capitalization are up to the contestant and need not follow the rigid rules used in structuring sentences.
- It does not have to rhyme; in fact, a haiku usually does not rhyme.
- It can include repeated words or sounds.

Each contestant may submit only **one** haiku entry for this contest.

Deadline and Submission Format

- **Deadline:** Completed haikus must be received by Friday, Nov. 14, 2025, at 4 p.m. CST. All entries not received by the UI Center for Advancement by that time will be ineligible.
- **How to submit:** Haiku must be uploaded through the contest website (foriowa.org/write-now) or submitted via email to write.now@foriowa.org.
- **File format:** The haiku must be uploaded at foriowa.org/write-now as a Word document (.doc), text file (.txt), or as a rich text format document (.rtf). **Haiku submitted in Apple's Pages format will not be accepted.** The name of the file must be the first word of the haiku. For example, if the first word of the haiku is "snowflake", then the name of the file must be "snowflake.doc," "snowflake.txt," or "snowflake.rtf." Contestants will also have the option of submitting their haiku via email to write.now@foriowa.org
- **Font:** Submissions must be typed in 12-point font.
- **Anonymity:** The author's name must not appear anywhere in the haiku document. The author's name will only be submitted on the web entry form.
- **Length:** The maximum length for each haiku is three lines. Entries with more than three lines will be disqualified.

Judging:

Entries will be judged on the following: creativity and originality of haiku; content/writing of haiku (e.g., appropriate emphasis or focus on key words or lines); relevance to contest theme; and phrases and imagery (e.g., reader can readily picture the elements).

There are six age categories: adult (University of Iowa alumni, Non-alumni/Friend) and grades 3 & 4, 5 & 6, 7 & 8, and 9–12. One winner will be selected from each category.

Feedback on the individual entries will not be provided at the end of the contest.

Creative Development

All creative development for your haiku must take place between the contest's entry window, between Monday, November 3, 2025, at 9 a.m. CST, and Friday, Nov. 14, 2025, at 4 p.m. CST. Creative development includes, but is not limited to, writing an original haiku from first draft to final draft. All decisions as to compliance with the contest's entry window are within the sole discretion of the UI Center for Advancement (UICA); and any such decisions by the UICA are final, conclusive, and binding upon all entrants. The UICA reserves the right to disqualify any entries that are plagiaristic or otherwise unoriginal to the corresponding entrant.

Prizes

Winners in each of the four grade-school categories will receive an Iowa scribe pack and a \$25 bookshop.org gift card.

The two adult winners will each receive a \$50 bookshop.org gift card.