

UI 100-WORD MICROSTORY 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 University of Iowa Center for Advancement Privacy Statement may be read in its entirety on our website. 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 call 1-800-982-4295 or email 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 submission 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, grades 5 & 6, grades 7 & 8, and grades 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](#). The prize will be sent to the parent/legal guardian completing the submission form at the provided address.

Minors should enter the age group that corresponds with the 2025–2026 academic year.

Adult Contestants

Any participant who is 18 or older *and* in high school, should enter the grades 9–12 category. All other participants who are 18 or older should enter one of the adult categories.

Eligibility to Participate

The contest is free and open to UI alumni, students, faculty, staff, and friends. Contestants must submit their entry between Monday, July 14, 2025, at 9 a.m. CDT, and Friday, July 25, 2025, at 4 p.m. CDT. Once the registration is completed online, an automatic confirmation will be displayed.

Contest Schedule

The contest begins on Monday, July 14, 2025, at 9 a.m. CDT, and runs through Friday, July 25, 2025, at 4 p.m. CDT. The winners will be announced on Tuesday, Aug. 12, 2025, at 9 a.m. CDT.

Story Assignments

Writers will create a fictional, original story—in 100 words or less—by selecting one of two prompts. The contest opens on the Write Now website on Monday, July 14, 2025, at 9 a.m. CDT. All stories must be created within the competition period and focus on one of the two prompts.

Deadline and Submission Format

- **Deadline:** Completed stories must be received by Friday, July 25, 2025, at 4 p.m. CDT. Late entries will be ineligible.
- **Length:** The maximum length for each microstory is 100 words. Entries with more than 100 words will be disqualified.
- **File format:** The story must be uploaded as a Word document (.doc or .docx), text file (.txt), or as a rich text format document (.rtf). Stories submitted in Apple's Pages format will not be accepted. The name of the file must be the title of the story. For example, if the title of your microstory is "Autumn," then the name of your file must be "Autumn.doc," "Autumn.txt," or "Autumn.rtf."
- **Font:** Submissions must be in 12-point Courier, New Courier, or Times New Roman typeface.
- **Anonymity:** The author's name must not appear anywhere in the microstory document. The author's name will be submitted only on the web entry form.
- **How to submit:** Stories must be uploaded through the [contest website](#) or submitted via email to write.now@foriowa.org.

Judging

Entries will be judged on the following: format; spelling and grammar; and story (use of prompt, writing, originality, character development, and plot development).

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

Feedback on the individual entries will not be provided.

Creative Development

All creative development for stories must take place between the contest's entry window, from Monday, July 14, 2025, at 9 a.m. CDT, and Friday, July 25, 2025, at 4 p.m. CDT. All decisions as to compliance with the contest's entry window are within the sole discretion of the UI Center for Advancement; and any such decisions by the UI Center for Advancement are final, conclusive, and binding upon all entrants. The UI Center for Advancement 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 a writing prize pack and a \$25 bookshop.org gift card. Winners in each of the adult categories will receive a handcrafted wooden pen carved from the branch of a tree that is located on the University of Iowa campus and a \$50 bookshop.org gift card. In addition, the winner—as well as honorable mentions—in each age category will be posted to the Write Now website.