

# 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](http://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](http://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](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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