

August / September Writing Contests and Publications

Contest title and link to site (P) Publication (C) Contest	Type(s) of Writing	Specific Requirements	Due date	Prizes	Additional notes
Scholastic, Inc. Art & Writing Awards The Alliance of Young Artists & Writers	Dramatic Script Humor, journalism, personal essay/memoir, persuasive writing, poetry, novel, science fiction/fantasy, short story, short short story, portfolios for seniors	See site for requirements in each category.	Between Dec 1-Jan 15	Regional Awards (prizes vary) and top winner receive trip to NYC, cash prizes, scholarships, and publication	Check regional affiliate for specific dates and submission information.
NPR This I Believe	Personal Essay "statement of personal belief"	350 – 500 words all essays that fit within the This I Believe guidelines and are submitted through the online form will be posted to the This I Believe Essay Collection online. Essays are not automatically posted; they must first go through a review process, which can take up to eight weeks.	Anytime Year round	Publication	Submit online
Figment	Post writing in poetry, nonfiction, fiction- all genres accepted.	Ongoing Contests throughout the year.	Anytime Year round	Varies depending on contest -Publication for each piece	Very teen oriented as a way to post and get responses to work.
SPECIAL Ayn Rand Atlas Shrugged Essay Contest	Essay Response to topic	Must be 12 th grade, College Undergraduate, or Graduate student 800-1600 words (3-6 pages) Respond to ONE of these topics: 1. What do you think is meant, in Part III of <i>Atlas Shrugged</i> , by the phrase "utopia of greed?" 2. Why does Francisco D'Anconia, heir to the greatest fortune in the world and a productive genius with boundless ambition, change his course and pose as, of all things, a playboy? 3. What does the story <i>Atlas Shrugged</i> have to say about the relative powers of good and evil and the conditions under which one is victorious over the other?	Sept. 17 2011	CASH PRIZES 1 st \$10,000 3 2 nd place \$2,000 5 3 rd place \$1,000 25 Finalists \$100 50 Semi Finalists \$50	Consider forming a book club /writing group to meet one day a week to discuss /revise together. Submit online

October Writing Contests and Publications

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Scholastic, Inc. Art & Writing Awards The Alliance of Young Artists & Writers P C	Dramatic Script Humor, journalism, personal essay/memoir, persuasive writing, poetry, novel, science fiction/fantasy, short story, short short story, portfolios for seniors	See site for requirements in each category.	Between Dec 1-Jan 15	Regional Awards (prizes vary) and top winner receive trip to NYC, cash prizes, scholarships, and publication	Check regional affiliate for specific dates and submission information.
First Freedom Student Competition C	Essay (or video)	High school students examine the history and current-day relevance of religious freedom	Nov 14	\$2500	
Holocaust Remembrance Project Essay Contest C	Essay	For High school students	CHECK SITE IN OCTOBER	1 st place scholarships \$5,000-\$2,500. 2 nd place \$500 3 rd place \$250	Teacher Resource Guide available
The Voice of Democracy Audio Essay Program C	Essay then record as an audio	High school students Students should first draft their essay based on the 2011-2012 theme: " Is There Pride in Serving in Our Military? " Students should then record their reading of the draft to a CD. The recording should be no shorter than 3 minutes and no longer than 5 minutes (plus or minus 5 seconds).	November 1, 2011	1 st place \$30,000 Each Post level winner varies	Listen to previous winners Entries begin at the Post level. Students submit their typed version, CD and the Voice of Democracy entry form to their local participating VFW Post no later than November 1, 2011
Teen Ink	Poetry, Fiction, Nonfiction, Opinions, Reviews	Contests open each month - Point of View Persuasive Essay on something you care about	Each month	\$200 and publication in print and online	Click here to enter the Get Money For College Contest for a chance to win a \$10,000 scholarship – just an entry form.

November Writing Contests and Publications

Contest title and link to site (P) Publication (C) Contest	Type(s) of Writing	Specific Requirements	Due date	Prizes	Additional notes
Scholastic, Inc. Art & Writing Awards The Alliance of Young Artists & Writers PC	Dramatic Script Humor, journalism, personal essay/memoir, persuasive writing, poetry, novel, science fiction/fantasy, short story, short short story, portfolios for seniors	See site for requirements in each category.	Between Dec 1-Jan 15	Regional Awards (prizes vary) and top winner receive trip to NYC, cash prizes, scholarships, and publication	Check regional affiliate for specific dates and submission information.
Letters About Literature C	Personal Reflective Letter (not a book report or FAN letter)	Level 1 Grades 4-6 100-400 words Level 2 Grades 7-8 300-600 words Level 3 Grades 9-12 500-800 words	Jan 6, 2012	National winners each designate a favorite library that they wish to receive a \$10,000 grant from Target. The students each receive a \$500 Target GiftCard.	
Newspaper Editorials	Opinion	See specific newspaper	All year	Publication	See this page for sample from national newspapers
Kenyon Review's The Patricia Grodd Poetry Prize for Young Writers PC	Poetry	Must be a high school sophomore or junior	Nov 30 th	Wins scholarship to The Kenyon Review Young Writers Workshop in Summer 2012	
Stage of Life Monthly Contest for High School Students C	non-fiction, memoir, blogging, diary, letter, essay-style	500 words written to a theme / topic provided. Varies each month: past contests have dealt with the Gulf Oil Spill, America's relationship to food, education improvement, teen stress, heroes, money, marriage, the media and more.	Last day of every month	Varies—Prizes from sponsors, cash, gift cards	This site offers lots of additional resources to explore the given topic. Helpful teacher materials as well. Stories about the StageofLife.com contests have appeared on media sites including TIME.com , FoxBusiness.com , CNBC.com , Forbes.com , etc.

December Writing Contests and Publications

Contest title and link to site (P) Publication (C) Contest	Type(s) of Writing	Specific Requirements	Due date	Prizes	Additional notes
Scholastic, Inc. Art & Writing Awards The Alliance of Young Artists & Writers PC	Dramatic Script Humor, journalism, personal essay/memoir, persuasive writing, poetry, novel, science fiction/fantasy, short story, short short story, portfolios for seniors	See site for requirements in each category.	Jan 6	Regional Awards (prizes vary) and top winner receive trip to NYC, cash prizes, scholarships, and publication	Check regional affiliate for specific dates and submission information.
JFK Profile in Courage Essay Contest C	Research essay describing an act of political courage	Grades 9-12 Minimum five sources 1,000 words maximum	January 7 th	1 st place \$10,000 2 nd place \$1,000 5 finalists \$500	Lots of teacher / classroom resources for promoting this contest
National Peace Essay Contest C	"How can new media best be leveraged to help build peace and prevent conflict?"	1500 words Scroll to bottom of this page to see the questions and requirements.	Feb 1	First-place state winners receive \$1,000 scholarships and are invited to Washington for a five-day awards program.	Consider a class activity based on these lessons that cover Media in Peace Relations. This pdf contains all contest information and posters, previous winners, etc.

January Writing Contests and Publications

Contest title and link to site (P) Publication (C) Contest	Type(s) of Writing	Specific Requirements	Due date	Prizes	Additional notes
Writer's Digest Your Story contest (P)	Varies each month	Write to the provided prompt— ranges from one sentence to 750 words.	Monthly	Publication in print magazine	Read past prompts and winning entries here
BYU Writing Contest for high school students. (C)	fiction, poetry, personal essay, and critical essay--	Fiction: between 1,000 and 4,000 words. Poetry in any verse form and may consist of one poem or a group of poems totaling 25 to 60 lines. Personal essays from 700 to 2,500 words. Critical essays from 700 to 2,500 words.	Jan 31	\$100.00 for 1 st \$60.00 for 2 nd \$40.00 for 3 rd	See site for specific cover sheet and guidelines
NextStepU a site to help for college planning – Writing Contest (C)	Any type of writing is accepted by contest winners are usually first-person, real-life stories.	Writer's Guidelines here. Under 1000 words is preferred.	Monthly	\$100	
Gulen Institute Youth Platform Writing Contest (c)	Essay in response to prompt:	“Creating solutions for the challenges faced by children today”	Jan 31	1 st place \$3,000 2 nd place \$2,000 3 rd place \$1,000 4 th - 15 th place \$ 300 16 th - 30 th place \$ 50 Teacher Awards: 1 st place \$1,000 2 nd place \$750 3 rd place \$500 4 th - 20 th \$200	All students who rank from 1st place to 30th place will be awarded a 4-day trip to Washington, D.C. and New York for the award ceremony in May 2012 Read past winners here

February Writing Contests and Publications

Contest title and link to site (P) Publication (C) Contest	Type(s) of Writing	Specific Requirements	Due date	Prizes	Additional notes
SN Review (P)	Literary Fiction or Creative NonFiction, essays, poetry	See Guidelines	Ongoing	Publication	Site offers samples of submitted work
Claremont Review is a magazine that showcases inspiring young adult writers, aged 13-19. We publish poetry, fiction, drama and art, twice a year, spring and fall. (C,P)	Poetry Fiction	Contestants must be aged 13-19 years Also accepts submissions all year (without a reading fee)	March 12	1 st \$500 2 nd \$300 3 rd \$200	Requires reading fee but includes a subscription to the Claremont Review.
The 2012 Sylvia K. Burack Writing Award (C)	Personal Essay	600- to 800-word personal essay in English on the following topic: "Select a work of fiction, poem or play that has influenced you. Discuss the work and explain how it affected you." No song lyrics.	March 15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$500 • Publication in <i>The Writer</i> magazine • A one-year subscription to <i>The Writer</i> • A copy of the Gotham Writers' Workshop anthology <i>Fiction Gallery</i> 	Open to 11 th and 12 th graders
Erma Bombeck Writing Competition	Humor Essay Human Interest Essay	Any age can enter 450 words or less \$15 readers fee	Feb 14	\$500 to first place in each category	Dayton Ohio residents eligible for local prize also

March Writing Contests and Publications

Contest title and link to site (P) Publication (C) Contest	Type(s) of Writing	Specific Requirements	Due date	Prizes	Additional notes
16th annual Signet Classics Student Scholarship Essay Contest C	write an essay on one of five topics for this year's competition book, <i>Emma</i> , by Jane Austen.	Only open to juniors and seniors	April 20	\$1,000 scholarships	See official Rules
Education Week Teacher P	Opinion /Editorial	700-1000 words	Anytime	Publication and cash on acceptance	Consider having students write about an educational issue from their perspective
Creative Kids Magazine (P)	cartoons, songs, stories between 500 and 1200 words, puzzles, photographs, artwork, games, editorials, poetry, and plays, as well as any other creative work	Ages 8-16 See guidelines	Ongoing	Publication	Read samples here
Society of Professional Journalists High School Essay contest	Response Essay	grades 9-12 Topic: "Why is it important that we have news media that is independent of the government?"	March 8	1st: \$1,000 scholarship Second Place: \$500 scholarship Third Place: \$300 scholarship	See guidelines about sending to your state branch

April Writing Contests and Publications

Contest title and link to site (P) Publication (C) Contest	Type(s) of Writing	Specific Requirements	Due date	Prizes	Additional notes
16th Annual Signet Classics Student Scholarship Essay Contest	Response essay	Essays must be submitted by a high school English teacher on behalf of students who write an essay on one of five topics for this year's competition book, Emma by Jane Austen	April 20	five high school juniors or seniors can each win a \$1,000 scholarship award to be used toward their higher education plus a Signet Classics library for their school!	
Norman Mailer High School and College Writing Awards for Creative Nonfiction C	creative nonfiction which is truth/fact-based writing with literary merit, work that features authorial voice and, often, personal experience, and often has a significant narrative quality.	High School Competition is open to all high school students. Students may submit one or more pieces of writing as one file, maximum 10 single-spaced pages, endorsed by a teacher and released by a parent or guardian.	April 28	Cash award of \$5,000 Travel and lodging to attend the Colony's National Award Ceremony	
American Profile C	Nonfiction / Reporting	See Guidelines for complete rules 350-1000 words	Ongoing	Payment upon publication	See this page for links to previous stories
Baker's Plays High School Playwriting Competition	Playwriting / dramatic script	See Guidelines and application	April 30 th	First Place: \$500.00 Second Place: \$250.00 Third Place: \$100.00 Each winner's play will be published in a collection by Baker's Plays with a royalty earning contract.	

May Writing Contests and Publications

FOCUS: Poetry

REVIEW: Personal Essay / Personal Narrative / Poetry

Contest title and link to site (P) Publication (C) Contest	Type(s) of Writing	Specific Requirements	Due date	Prizes	Additional notes
Crashtest is an biannual online magazine founded and run by the creative writing students at the Fine Arts Center, a public arts high school in Greenville, South Carolina. (P)	poetry, stories and creative non-fiction (personal essays, imaginative investigation, experimental interviews)	Grades 9-12	Ongoing	Publication	See site for guidelines Read current issue
Cuckoo Quarterly is a literary magazine by young writers	VERY open – any and all forms for online magazine	Age 19 and under	(see site)	Publication	Read samples here
Skipping Stones An International Multicultural Magazine for readers ages 7-17 years old (P)	essays, stories, letters to the editor, riddles and proverbs, and more	Read Guidelines Here	Ongoing	Publication	Lots of great ideas for what to write about on the guidelines page
UpFront Magazine for Teen Voices	Personal Essay Other scholastic WRITE IT site/genres	Varies depending on Genre See guidelines	Ongoing	Publication	Read samples of Teen Voices Essays here

Additional Contests, Publications, and Resources

If you are really interested in pursuing publication, consider a subscription to [Writer's Market](#) online. This is a searchable database of thousands of publications, contests, and awards.

[NewPages.com](#) is a source for writers/readers for publication

The [Magazine Directory](#) has links to lots of magazines where you can find samples and submit writing

[A Voice for Animals High School Essay Contest](#) Essay contest for high school students. Due March

[Being and American contest](#) opens Sept- December for high school students.

[Americanism Essay Contest](#) For Grades 7-12

[American Profile](#) Post a story about something unique share about yourself, your family or someone in your community? Have you visited a unique festival, historical site or landmark? Post your story here.

[Broken Pencil](#) Online and Print Magazine covering the indie art scene. Based in Canada. [Writer's Guidelines here](#) (editorials, reviews, fiction and more) Pays \$30-300

[Disney's Family Fun Magazine](#) offers new writers two places to submit (Let's Go and Success Story) [Submission Guidelines](#)

- Let's Go 600 to 1,000 words articles, first-person, presents a family travel topic such as a road trip, insider's city weekend, or themed roundup of attractions or destinations. The department ends with a reader-recommended destination or tourist attraction that is "Worth the Trip." Because we are budget-conscious, we rarely cover international travel or expensive American resorts or programs. *Compensation: \$1.25 per word upon acceptance; \$100 for the idea if we opt to use a staff writer Submissions: Manuscripts and queries; direct to Amy Brown, Assistant Editor*

- Success Story showcases a practical, innovative idea that the writer used to solve a problem common among families: a game or homemade chart that got the kids excited about doing chores, for instance, or a trick that persuaded reluctant letter writers to keep up their correspondence with a grandparent. Each essay tells the story of how this Success Story changed or inspired the family. *Length: 800 to 1,000 words Compensation: \$1,250 upon acceptance Submissions: Queries accepted, manuscripts preferred; direct to Debra Immergut, Senior Editor*

[Alfred Hitchcock Mystery Magazine](#) includes short stories, reviews, puzzles and more. See [Writer's Guidelines](#)

[Ellery Queen Mystery Magazine](#), Publisher of the world's leading crime and mystery fiction [Writer's Guidelines](#)

[Association for Women in Mathematics](#) C 500-1000 words (2-4 pages) Jan 31st