



# Frequently Asked Questions

Rev 2-12-26

## **What is the Tournament of Writers?**

A friendly Writer's Contest for all ages living in Southwest Michigan including Berrien, Cass, St. Joseph, Branch, Calhoun, Kalamazoo, Van Buren, Allegan, and Barry Counties.

## **Deadlines to enter submissions?**

Sunday, Feb 1 through Saturday, March 14, 2026

## **Age Divisions?**

Youth – In Elementary and Middle School

Teen – In High School

Adult – Out of High School (18 and older)

## **Categories?**

Fiction – short stories, short plays or scenes, something made up

Non-Fiction – memoirs, essays, something based in truth

Poetry – any style

## **Maximum Word Count?**

Fiction and Non-Fiction – 2500 words, Poetry – 2000 words

## **Cost to Participate?**

\$15 for youth and teen entries & \$25 for adult entries. One entry fee covers one submission. Participants can submit up to two additional submissions, one in each category. Additional submissions are discounted at \$10 each for youth and teens and \$15 for adults. *Financial assistance is available* – contact us at [info@vicksburgarts.org](mailto:info@vicksburgarts.org).

## **What is included in the registration fee?**

Access to the Tournament of Writers Clinic (see below), a copy of *The Tournament of Writers Collection* in the age division your work is published in, invitation to the Book Release Celebration, feedback from our judges, and the opportunity to read your work during the inaugural Pulp & Press Literary Festival.

## **How do we judge submissions?**

Judges use a rubric scoring methodology to evaluate works. Rubrics can be found at <https://vicksburgarts.org/tournament-of-writers>

## **How should entries be formatted?**

We prefer Word or Google docs or pdf's. Contact us for information on submitting typed or handwritten entries at [info@vicksburgarts.org](mailto:info@vicksburgarts.org).

## **How are stories submitted?**

Submit entries at <https://vicksburgarts.org/tournament-of-writers>. You will be able to pay your entry fee securely via credit card or PayPal. Entries will be accepted Feb 1 – March 14.

### **Tournament of Writers Clinic**

New this year, we are offering a dynamic Writers' Clinic on Saturday, March 7 from 10 am to 2 pm at the Vicksburg District Library. Line Edit and Literary coaches will be onsite to assist writers. The clinic is \$20 for students, \$35 for adults. *Financial assistance is available* – contact us at [info@vicksburgarts.org](mailto:info@vicksburgarts.org).

### **Publication Rights?**

Entries cannot have been previously published. Vicksburg Arts reserves only first publication rights in *The Tournament of Writers Collection*. You own your submitted works.

### **When will winners be announced and published?**

All winners will be announced on April 23, 2026, during the Book Release Celebration.

### **What are the awards?**

|                                                |                 |
|------------------------------------------------|-----------------|
| Third prize (category and age division)        | \$25 Gift Card* |
| Second prize (category and age division)       | \$50            |
| First prize (category and age division)        | \$100           |
| Gilbert & Ivy Youth Award (13 to 18 year-olds) | \$100           |
| Tournament Grand Prize Winner                  | \$200           |

\* Gift Card to Gilbert & Ivy Bookstore in Vicksburg, MI

### **What is the Book Release Celebration?**

A celebration of the publication of *The Tournament of Writers Collection* for participants and their guests on April 23, 2025 at 5:30 pm at Wind + James Event Center, 555 Eliza, Schoolcraft, MI. Entries are selected for reading and winners are announced at the event. Tournament participants receive a complimentary copy of the book. Copies will be available for purchase. The evening ends with a book signing by all Tournament authors present.

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