



The Write Michigan Contest is a short-story competition for Michigan residents. Writers fall into **four** categories—**Youth**, 11 and under; **Teen**, 12-17 years old; **Adult**, ages 18 and older; and, new in 2016, an all-ages category for stories in **Spanish**—with three cash prizes awarded in each category. The Readers' Choice awards are voted upon by readers via an online judging site; the Judges' Choice and runner-up awards are decided upon by a group of judges. The top five short stories in each category will be published in an anthology by [Chapbook Press](#), which will include a foreword by this year's celebrity author, [Mardi Jo Link](#).

How it Works:

- Writers submit their short story after completing an online registration form and paying the nonrefundable \$10.00 registration fee online (no cost for writers under 18).
- Electronic submissions only; PDF document only. **Do not include author's name on the PDF.**
- Top 10 stories in each category are posted on [writemichigan.org](#) for a public vote; readers can vote for their top three short stories.
- The story with the most votes wins the Readers' Choice award for each category.
- Designated judges will also review the Top 10 semifinalists in each category and choose the Judges' Choice and runner-up awards for each category.
- Winners are announced via email and on the Write Michigan website.
- Winners are published in a Chapbook Press anthology that will be available for purchase via the [Schuler Books](#) website, at the store, or via links from participating websites.
- Purchasing books is not required to enter the contest.

Requirements:

- Open to all Michigan residents. Residents are defined as full or part-time residents of Michigan, or those attending a Michigan college or university and residing in the state.
- Maximum length: 3,000 words or 10 pages.
- Submissions must be in a PDF document, 12-point Times New Roman type, double-spaced. **Do not include author's name on the PDF.**
- Work cannot infringe on third-party rights; that is, copyright isn't owned by another entity.
- Submitted work is original and wholly owned by the author. **Submissions should not have been previously published in print or online.**
- **All stories must be submitted by 11:59 p.m. on Nov. 30, 2016.**
- One story per author.
- **Online registration only;** short stories cannot be submitted at libraries or Schuler Books & Music locations.

- Fill out online registration completely, including email address and phone number.
- Permission to publish winning short stories in book form and online will be required at submission.
- Please note that semi-finalist stories are reviewed for plagiarism and/or previous publication.
- The top ten semi-finalists in each category will be announced on **January 9, 2017**. On that date, those stories will be available on the Write Michigan website for public voting to determine the Readers' Choice winner.
- Winners will be notified via email and on the Write Michigan website on **February 3, 2017**.
- \$250 cash prize will be awarded to the first-place winners in each category (Readers' and Judges' Choice); \$100 for Judges' Choice runner-up in each category.
- The top five short stories as chosen by judges, and the top popular vote getter, plus a foreword by the year's celebrity author, will be included in the published Write Michigan Anthology.
- Winners will be asked not to submit a story submission for the next year's contest.

Special Note to Teachers

- Submissions require unique email addresses. Do not plan to submit your student's work for them.
- Each submission requires permission to publish winning short stories. It is not appropriate for this permission to come from teachers but from the student and their parents/guardians.

Terms of Service—*Agreement to the Terms of Service is required at submission:*

- To the fullest extent permitted by law, the Author shall indemnify, defend and hold harmless the Kent District Library and Schuler Books, hereinafter referred to collectively as the "Contest Sponsors," including all of their employees and agents, from and against all losses, liabilities, penalties, fines, damages and claims and all related costs and expenses (including reasonable attorneys' fees and disbursements and costs of investigation, litigation, settlement, judgments, interest and penalties), and also including any claims of infringement of United States copyright or other proprietary right of any person or entity, which right is enforceable under the laws of the United States, arising from or in connection with her or his participation in the Write Michigan Contest.
- The Contest Sponsors shall hold an exclusive right to publish the Work in all physical and digital formats for a period of one year from the date the Write Michigan contest winners are announced. Following that period, the Author may republish the submitted Work with any person or entity of his or her choosing. The Author agrees that the Contest Sponsors shall maintain their co-equal copyright in the said Work in perpetuity, but Contest Sponsors waive their right to benefit from any third party republishing of the Work.