

Deadline: December 2, 2019

Grand prize: \$1,000 and publication in our magazine

Word count: 2,000 words or less

Other prizes: Our second-place winner will receive \$500 and publication on our website, writermag.com; our third-place winner will receive \$250 and publication on writermag.com as well.

Not the writing contest for you? [Sign up for our newsletter](#) to be the first to hear when we launch a new one.

PLEASE READ ALL GUIDELINES BEFORE SUBMITTING OR YOUR WORK MAY BE DISQUALIFIED.

Guidelines:

- The submission period is from Oct 1 to 11:59 EDT on Dec. 2, 2019. Please note that the deadline is *eastern time*. If you are unsure when that would be in your time zone, we recommend using an online time zone converter, such as thetimezoneconverter.com. Every year, we receive emails from writers who waited until the last minute to enter and experienced a technical glitch or another emergency. To be safe, we recommend submitting *before* the final deadline to account for any problems. If you experience a technical problem or glitch, we recommend contacting Submittable directly at support@submittable.com. If you experience a non-technical problem or you have a question, contact tweditorial@madavor.com and we will do our very best to help you, but please read through ALL guidelines before emailing as your question may have already been answered.

- **Please remove your name, bio, and any contact info from the file that you submit - including title page, header and footer.** This is a blind contest and your confidentiality is essential. Once we close the contest and determine our winners, Submittable will allow us to contact you via your account information. There is no need whatsoever to include your personal information in your document.

- The entry fee is \$25 (including processing fees). All entries **MUST** be submitted through Submittable to be considered. We cannot accept mailed or emailed submissions.

- We encourage you to submit multiple entries for a discounted entry fee of \$15. All entries must be submitted on the same transaction in order to get the discounted rate. The first submission will be \$25 and each additional submission (up to 4 per transaction) will be \$15.

- You may choose to add on a critique of one of your entries for an additional \$25. Our critiques are roughly 200 words and aim to show both your work's best strengths in addition to what might need improvement. If you submit more than one piece, our judging panel will critique the story that we felt was the strongest overall. **Again, if you submit more than one entry and you add-on a critique fee, we will only critique *one* piece.** You will receive your critique in an email via Submittable once we close the contest and announce the winners. It takes a great deal of time to read all entries and craft our critiques, so please have patience with us as we work through our entries. Our critique times vary based on how many submissions we received and can take up to six months for our staff to process. **Please do not contact us about the status of your critique until April 30, 2020.** It is our hope to have completed all critiques sooner than that date, but we anticipate this contest being very popular with our readers and want to give our staff ample time to craft thoughtful critiques. **If you need a critique sooner than that date, please do not purchase the critique option.**

- You may enter simultaneously submitted work. However, if one of your pieces is accepted for publication anywhere else, please withdraw your entry on Submittable and email us at tweditorial@madavor.com immediately so we know your story is no longer under consideration. We are not able to give refunds for contest entries that were accepted for publication elsewhere, so consider your options carefully before entering simultaneously submitted work.

- Do not submit any work over 2000 words or it will be disqualified. (Your piece's title will not be included in the final word count.)

- **We prefer Word documents**, but we do accept some other file types (such as PDFs). Please do give your piece a title and make sure that title matches the name you enter in the Submittable "title" form. (Your title will not be included in the maximum word count). For multiple submissions, simply enter one of your stories' titles in the Submittable form.

- A blind reading of all entries will be conducted by our judging panel.

- \$1,000 and publication in a future issue of our magazine will be awarded to the winner. The runner-up will receive \$500 and publication on writermag.com. The third-place winner will receive \$250 and publication on writermag.com.

- Although we very rarely do so, please know that we reserve the right to extend the official deadline as needed. Any deadline extensions will be announced via our newsletter, which you can subscribe to here: writermag.com/newsletter-2/.

- Close friends and colleagues (current & former) of *The Writer* staff and Madavor Media are not eligible to compete.

- All submissions must be submitted via our online submission form manager. Again, we will not accept mail or email submissions.
- All submissions must be previously unpublished. A work that has previously appeared on a blog or website is considered previously published and is thus ineligible for our competition.
- Entry fees are non-refundable.
- International (non-US) writers are welcome to submit.
- Must be 18 years or older to enter.