



2023 Frequently Asked Questions

What is the Tournament of Writers?

A Writer's Contest for all ages living in Southwest Michigan offered by the Vicksburg Cultural Arts Center

Deadlines to enter submissions?

We're accepting submissions Wednesday, February 1 through Tuesday, February 28, 2023.

Age Divisions?

- Junior (through 8th grade)
- Young Adult (9th grade through 25 years old)
- Adult (ages 26 - 50)
- Seniors (ages 51 and up)

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?

- \$10 for Junior and Young Adult entries
- \$20 for Adult and Senior entries

When you enter the TOW, you receive a free copy of *Small Town Anthology* (where we will publish your work), free entry for you and your guests to the Book Release signing party, and access to coaching and feedback from our writing coaches and judges.

What are the awards?

- First prize \$50 each category/division winner
- Second prize \$25 each category/division winner
- Third prize Tournament of Writers Journal/division winner
- Judges' Choice \$200 one winner
- Gilbert and Ivy Youth Writers Award \$100

How many times can I enter?

One entry per category for a total of three entries. (One entry fee covers up to three submissions.)

How should entries be formatted?

We prefer electronic entries submitted via our website as Word or Google docs or as PDFs.

Contact us for information about how to submit typed or handwritten entries. (269) 200-2223.

How do you judge my work?

Judges use a rubric scoring methodology to evaluate works. These scoring sheets can be found on our website at <https://vicksburgarts.com/tow-program-details>

How do I submit my work?

Submit your entries via our website at <https://vicksburgarts.com/tournament-of-writers>.

You will be asked to indicate your name, category, division, phone number, mailing address, and email address. You will be able to pay your entry fee via credit card on our website.

If you would prefer not to enter through our website, or would rather pay with cash or check, contact us at alisha@vicksburgarts.com for details about how to enter without using our website.

Who owns my entry?

You own your written works. The Vicksburg Cultural Arts Center reserves only first publication rights in the *Small Town Anthology*.

When will winners be announced and published?

- Winners will be announced on Thursday, March 16 at 5:30 via Facebook live.
- Winners will also be posted on the VCAC website and Facebook page
- The Judges' Choice award will be announced at the Book Release Celebration on April 6.
- All accepted entries will be published in *Small Town Anthology IX* and will be available at the Book Release Celebration.

Book Release Celebration?

You and your guests are invited to a celebration of the publication of your work in *The Small Town Anthology, Volume IX*. You will receive a complimentary copy of the anthology and more copies will be available for purchase at the event. The evening ends with book signing by all Tournament writers.

- Thursday, April 6, 6:00 pm at R & R Weddings and Events, 343 W. Prairie Street, Vicksburg