

HOW TO STAND A CHANCE IN A SHORT STORY CONTEST

Research reputable sources: Look for writing contests on well-known writing websites, magazines, and literary journals. Also, check out local writing organizations or libraries for contests in your area.

<https://blog.reedsy.com/writing-contests/>

<https://duotrope.com/>

<https://www.christopherfielden.com/short-story-tips-and-writing-advice/short-story-competitions.php>

www.critters.org

Join writing communities: Engage with online writing forums, groups, and social media platforms to stay updated on upcoming contests. Fellow writers can be a great source of information and support.

Look for contests that cater to novice writers: Some contests are specifically designed for emerging writers with little to no experience. Focus on these competitions as they'll have a level playing field and increase your chances of winning.

Understand the contest's theme and genre: Carefully read the contest guidelines to determine the specific theme or genre required. Align your story idea with the contest's focus to ensure your submission is relevant and on-target.

Note submission deadlines: Keep track of contest deadlines and give yourself ample time to write, revise, and edit your story. Missing the deadline means missing the opportunity, so plan ahead.

Pay attention to word count limits: Contests often have strict word count limits. Make sure your story adheres to the specified word count to avoid disqualification.

Follow formatting requirements: Each contest may have different formatting guidelines, such as font type, size, and spacing. Ensure your story meets these requirements to make a professional impression.

Review eligibility criteria: Some contests may have specific eligibility requirements, such as age, nationality, or previous publication history. Verify that you meet these criteria before submitting your story.

Double-check submission fees: While many contests are free to enter, some may require a submission fee. Be aware of any costs involved and budget accordingly – particularly if you want to enter more than one story.

Keep track of submissions: Maintain a record of contests you've entered, including submission dates, guidelines, and deadlines.

Read the contest guidelines carefully: Thoroughly review the contest's rules, eligibility criteria, submission requirements, and deadlines. Failing to follow guidelines can lead to disqualification.

Choose the right contest: Look for contests that cater to your writing style, genre, and experience level. By focusing on suitable competitions, you'll increase your chances of success.

Develop a unique and compelling story idea: Stand out from the competition by crafting a fresh, engaging, and thought-provoking story. This will capture the judges' attention and make your submission memorable.

Create well-rounded characters: Develop believable, relatable, and emotionally engaging characters that resonate with readers. Strong, memorable characters can make a lasting impression.

Edit and revise thoroughly: Polish your work by revising for clarity, pacing, and flow. Pay attention to grammar, punctuation, and spelling to ensure your writing is as error-free as possible.

Seek feedback from others: Share your story with people who read your genre to gather honest and constructive feedback. Use their insights to refine and strengthen your submission.

Follow formatting and presentation guidelines: Ensure your submission adheres to the contest's formatting requirements, such as font, spacing, and

margins. A professionally presented story is more likely to be well-received by judges.

Stick to the word count: Respect the contest's word count limits, as overly long or short submissions may be disqualified. Aim for a story that's concise and impactful within the specified range.

Craft a satisfying conclusion: End your story with a resolution that's both emotionally resonant and thought-provoking. A strong, memorable ending can leave a lasting impression on judges.

Submit on time: Keep track of submission deadlines and ensure you submit your work well before the cut-off. Late submissions may not be considered, so don't miss the opportunity to showcase your talent.