

WRITE NOW

The University of Iowa Alumni and Friends'
Microstory Writing Contest

July 13-24, 2026

They say everyone has a story to tell—even in just 100 words.

This summer, we'd love to read yours.

This summer, spark your creativity with the University of Iowa's Microstory Contest. Choose one of two photo prompts and turn it into a powerful 100-word story. Short, imaginative, and fun—no experience required.

Contest Categories

- Grades 3-4
- Grades 5-6
- Grades 7-8
- Grades 9-12
- Current UI Student
- Adult

How it works:

- **Theme:** Two photo prompts will be posted on the Write Now website (foriowa.org/write-now) on Monday, July 13 at 9 a.m. Choose one to inspire your story.
- **Length:** The maximum length for each microstory is 100 words. Entries exceeding 100 words will be disqualified.
- **Submit:** Deadline: Friday, July 24 at 4:00 p.m. CST. Submit at foriowa.org/write-now

Entries for participants under age 18 must be submitted by a parent, guardian, or teacher. Teachers, please email for more information about the bulk submission process.

Win Fabulous Prizes

One winner in each age category will receive an Iowa writing pack and a Bookshop.org gift card.

More information about the Flash Writing contest and full contest rules, visit:
foriowa.org/write-now

Questions?

Contact Tegan Donahue, Assistant Director, Alumni Engagement, University of Iowa Center for Advancement
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