

**Oklahoma City Writers, Inc.**  
**2021 OCWI Annual Contest for Members Only**  
**Contest Rules & Categories**

## **General Information**

Oklahoma City Writers, Inc. conducts an annual writing contest for its members only. The contest opens August 21, 2021 and **closes September 18, 2021**. All 2021 entries should be brought to the September meeting or mailed to the Contest Chair (information found below). If mailed, the postmark deadline is **midnight of September 18, 2021**.

For all submissions, please follow the general contest rules and submission guidelines below.

In order to qualify for a cash prize, a category must have at least five (5) entries. A category with fewer than five submissions will still be judged, but no cash prize will be awarded to the first-place winner.

Contest winners will be announced at the November meeting. First, second, and third place winners in all categories will receive certificates and a cash prize (if the category qualifies as per stated above). The awards are as follows:

- First place receives \$40
- Second place receives \$25
- Third place receives \$15
- The Crème-de-la-crème award is given to the best of the best submissions overall. This prize comes accompanied by a \$50 cash award.
- Honorable mention awards may be awarded at the judges' discretion but will not receive a cash award.

**Judging:** The club will not pay any monetary stipend or payment for services of judging entries in the Oklahoma City Writers, Inc. contest. All judging is done on a volunteer basis. We appreciate and thank our judges.

**Contest Chair:** The Contest Chair is appointed by the President and, at the President's discretion, a Co-Chair may also be appointed. No one working on the contest, including the chair and the Co-Chair, are permitted to enter the contest.

**Cover sheet:** The cover sheet will be removed by the chair before the entries are sent to the judges and retained for identifying the winner when the manuscript is returned.

**Disqualification:** To protect the integrity of the writing contest, any manuscript that is not the original work of the author will be disqualified. The Contest Chair is required to disqualify anyone who is not adhering to the rules and submission guidelines (see below). An ad-hoc committee composed of the Contest Chair and President will convene to resolve any questions that may arise during the contest.

## Oklahoma City Writers, Inc. Contest Categories:

1. **Humor:** fiction or non-fiction. Maximum length 3,000 words.
2. **Inspirational:** fiction or non-fiction. Maximum length 5,000 words.
3. **Juvenile:** juvenile fiction, non-fiction, picture books, and book-length fiction and non-fiction for middle-grade and up. Maximum length of any submission that is not book-length should be 3,000 words. If your entry is a book-length project, please send only the first 10 pages plus a synopsis or outline. The synopsis/outline should not exceed 750 words.
4. **Essay:** any subject that informs, entertains, or persuades. Maximum length 1,500 words.
5. **Poetry:** any length, style, or theme, traditional or free-verse.
6. **Short story:** any short fiction for adult readers. Maximum length 5,000 words.
7. **Flash fiction:** an extremely short but complete work of fiction for adult readers. Maximum length 500 words.
8. **Feature Article:** Non-fiction article on any subject. Maximum length is 2,000 words.
9. **Nostalgia:** factual story reflecting the past. Maximum length 1,200 words.
10. **Book (adult):** includes fiction and non-fiction for adult readers. Each entry should include only the first 20 pages (or less), and a separate document containing the book synopsis for fiction or outline for non-fiction, not to exceed 750 words.
11. **Crème-de-la-Crème:** All first-place winners (of categories that make) will compete for a \$50 best-of-the-best award.

**2021 Entry Deadline:** The contest opens on August 21, 2021 and ends on September 18, 2021 (postmark deadline). No entries will be accepted prior to August 21, 2021 or later than September 18, 2021.

**Contest Results:** OCWI meeting, Saturday, November 20, 2021.

**For more information, contact Contest Chair:** Dee Britt at [61dee.britt@gmail.com](mailto:61dee.britt@gmail.com)

**Mail entries to:** 1325 SW 116<sup>th</sup> Ter, Oklahoma City, OK 73170

## General OCWI Contest Rules and Submission Guidelines:

In order to avoid disqualification, please make sure to follow the rules outlined below before you submit your manuscript(s).

1. Every entry must contain a cover sheet.
2. Only members of the Oklahoma City Writers, Inc. can enter the contest. If entries are co-authored, both authors must be OCWI members. Dues must be current at the time of the contest.
3. You may enter only one (1) unpublished manuscript per category. The same manuscript cannot be entered in more than one category.

4. Any manuscript that has won a cash prize (1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> place or Crème-de-la-crème award) in any previous Oklahoma City Writers, Inc. contest may not be entered again. Manuscripts may have been submitted for publication, as long as they have not yet been accepted or published in any format.
5. The entry fee for the contest is a one-time payment of \$10 dollars. Please make the check or money order **ONLY** payable to the Oklahoma City Writers, Inc. and include it in the envelope with your entries. (No cash will be accepted this year)
6. All entries must be “editor ready” in proper manuscript format. This includes proofreading for grammar, spelling, or any other mechanical and stylistic issue that would cause points to be taken from the entry.
7. All manuscripts (except the poetry entries if needed) must be typed on 8 ½ by 11-inch paper, double-spaced, and printed on one side only. If you submit your work in print, please use a paperclip (no staples) to hold all pages. Please type all entries using an easy-to-read font such as Times New Roman or Courier. Please use a size 12 font.
8. In the upper right corner of the first page of each manuscript, please type:
  - the category name and numbers
  - the number of lines for poetry
  - the number of pages for fiction or nonfiction
  - the word count
9. If you are submitting a printed copy, please include in your envelope a SASE (self-addressed stamped envelope) so that your submission can be returned to you. If you plan to pick up your submission at the November meeting, please note so on the submission envelope. Please use a 9x12 inch envelope for your submission and a similarly large envelope for your SASE.

**Please Note:** Judges are not required to offer comments on the manuscripts they judge but are encouraged to do so. Please use this feedback for revision purposes, and please consider submitting your revision to the Oklahoma Writers’ Federation, Inc. 2022 competition.