

[TW Contests](#) [1]

The Talking Writing Prize is an annual contest that celebrates the diversity online of original, personally driven writing.

***Talking Writing* contests are currently on hold.**

General Contest Information

Since its debut in 2010, *Talking Writing* has showcased personal essays and other endangered forms of literary and journalistic writing.

TW editors believe strongly in building a community that promotes literary culture all over the Web—and the world. TW features have been reprinted in *Salon*, *Ebony*, and the *Huffington Post*, among other online media sites. TW issues have featured interviews with Jennifer Egan, Robert Olen Butler, Terry Tempest Williams, Connie Willis, Andrew Lam, Caitlin Moran, and many others. TW also publishes poetry, fiction, and the work of visual artists and photographers.

All contest submissions are reviewed by top TW editors and considered for publication in the magazine.

Submit all entries at talkingwriting.submittable.com. [2] The \$15 fee for each entry offsets administrative costs and supports ongoing publication of TW.

For prose and hybrids, we'll accept up to 3,000 words; 3-6 pages for poems. Enter as many pieces as you like, although each entry requires a separate submission and contest fee. Simultaneous submissions are fine, too, as long as you notify us immediately if your piece is accepted elsewhere. We'll consider unpublished works only, and all entries must be in English.

Include only the title of your piece and page numbers on the first page and in the header. Author names, bios, and cover letters will not be seen by contest readers or judges until the winners have been selected.

Prizewinners receive a cash award and publication in *Talking Writing*.

No contest in 2021 and 2022 (pandemic freeze)

TW Contest Winner for 2020

Talking Writing Prize for Multiple Genres

Topic: Creative Fire

Judge: Lesley Wheeler

Winner: B. Tyler Lee for [• a large volume of small nonsenses](#) [3]

TW Contest Winner for 2019

TW Contests

Published on Talking Writing (<https://www.talkingwriting.com>)

Talking Writing Prize for Poetry

Topic: The Age of Extinction

Judge: Neil Aitken

Winner: Stacey Balkun for [Eulogy Ending in Red](#) [4]

TW Contest Winner for 2018

Talking Writing Prize for Personal Essay

Topic: Place and Identity

Judge: Julie Phillips

Winner: Tuan Phan for [From Saigon to Bataan to Ohio](#) [5]

TW Contest Winner for 2017

Talking Writing Prize for Personal Essay

Topic: Writing and Faith

Judge: Ausma Zehanat Khan

Winner: Sarah Birnbach for [My Father's Blessing](#) [6]

TW Contest Winners for 2016

Talking Writing Prize for Flash Fiction

Topic: Absurd Stories

Judge: Meg Pokrass

Winner: Nyanka Joseph for [To Be a Snake in Winter](#) [7]

Talking Writing Prize for Personal Essay

Topic: Mental Illness

Judge: Mark Vonnegut

Winner: Jane McCafferty for [Unleashed](#) [8]

TW Contest Winner for 2015

Talking Writing Prize for Hybrid Poetry

Judge: Amy King

Winner: Elisabeth Weiss for [The Anna Fragments](#) [9]

TW Contest Winners for 2014

Talking Writing Prize for Flash Nonfiction

Judge: Dinty W. Moore

Winner: Stephen Brown for [How Can I Miss You When You Won't Go Away?](#) [10]

Talking Writing Prize for Advice Writing

Judge: Emily Toth

Winner: Ruth Carmel for [Misdirection](#) [11]

TW Contest Winners for 2013

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Published on Talking Writing (<https://www.talkingwriting.com>)

Talking Writing Prize for Flash Fiction

Judge: Joanne Avallón

Winner: Charlotte M. Porter for [Deaf Uncle](#) [12]

Talking Writing Prize for Creative Nonfiction

Topic: Family Life

Judge: Lorraine Berry

Winner: Drew Ciccolo for "Paige"

TW Contest Winners for 2012

Talking Writing Prize for Short Fiction

Judge: David Cameron

Winner: David Meischen for [Agua Dulce](#) [13]

Talking Writing Prize for Nature Writing

Judge: Steven Lewis

Winner: John Gredler for [Glistening Scar](#) [14]

Small Print

By submitting a contest entry, you agree that if your piece is a prize winner or is selected for publication, Talking Writing, Inc., will acquire First North American serial rights, the right to put it or portions of it on the TW website, and the one-time, non-exclusive right to include it in a TW anthology, should there ever be one. All other rights are retained by the author.

You also warrant that your piece is an original work, is solely owned by you, and has not been previously published.

Source URL: <https://www.talkingwriting.com/tw-contests>

Links:

- [1] <https://www.talkingwriting.com/tw-contests>
- [2] <http://talkingwriting.submittable.com/submit>
- [3] <http://talkingwriting.com/large-volume-small-nonsenses>
- [4] <http://talkingwriting.com/eulogy-ending-red>
- [5] <http://talkingwriting.com/saigon-bataan-ohio>
- [6] <http://talkingwriting.com/my-father%E2%80%99s-blessing>
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- [12] <http://talkingwriting.com/deaf-uncle>
- [13] <http://talkingwriting.com/agua-dulce/>
- [14] <http://talkingwriting.com/glistening-scar/>