

The Great Novel Contest Official Rules

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Please carefully read these rules before submitting your work to The Great Novel Contest (the contest).

Eligibility – The contest is open to all English-speaking authors over the age of 18. Entrants may not be a national or legal permanent resident of any of the following countries: Burma, Cuba, Iran, North Korea, Sudan or Syria. Entrants may not be members of any guild, union or other organization that may prohibit them from participating in the contest and/or that would restrict, require due payment or otherwise have the right to oppose such entrant's participation in this Contest.

You may not enter if you hold a permanent position with the Ohio Writers' Association (i.e. director) or if you are directly related to the administration of the contest.

How to Enter – Your entry must be received between January 1, 2020 at 12:01 a.m. ET and January 31, 2020 at 11:59 p.m. ET. All entries must be submitted via the online form with a full manuscript uploaded via the form.

The contest may close early at the discretion of OWA.

Entrants must follow all on-screen instructions. Entrants who fail to follow directions may be disqualified.

Entry Requirements – You must be the only author of your manuscript and possess full ownership of all included material. If your manuscript has more than one author, you must have permission from all sources who contributed to the manuscript.

Your manuscript must be between 50,000 and 125,000 total word count. The manuscript should be formatted in a legible font of size 10 to 14 pt. Do not include pictures in your manuscript or additional materials of any kind. These materials will not be considered, and in some cases, the manuscript will be rejected.

Manuscripts must have numbered pages. Author's name should not be listed on the manuscript.

You may have contracted the representation of an agent. But the author must personally submit his/her work to this contest and must personally agree to these terms.

Conditions of Entry – By entering, you are stating that 1) the manuscript is entirely your work, and you have permission from all sources and contributors; 2) the manuscript belongs to you, and has not been copied or borrowed from any other source, and does not infringe upon any existing copyright; 3) the manuscript is not defamatory, libelous or otherwise inappropriate; 4) the manuscript has not previously been published or made available for sale to the general public in any format.

Grant of Rights – By entering this contest, you grant the Ohio Writers' Association the right to share your manuscript with any individuals and organizations it finds relevant to the selection and administration process.

The author retains all other rights to their manuscript. Winners are not obligated to any agreement.

Manuscript Shopping – Entrants may simultaneously shop their manuscript to agents and publishers but may not have signed a publishing agreement with any entity prior to submission. If an agreement is signed before winners are announced, entrant should contact OWA with this information immediately.

Collection and Use of Personal Information – Personal information about you may be collected and will be shared with the individuals and organizations OWA finds pertinent to the selection and administration of the contest. Contact information of participants may also be shared with contest partners. Information will not be shared with any third parties outside of those noted, except as required by law and in accordance with OWA's published privacy policy.

Contest Judging – Ten finalists will be selected and announced by April 30, 2020. Finalists and winners will be selected by a panel of judges. Judges will be selected by OWA at its discretion. Judges will score all submissions on standardized criteria and point formulas, to be determined by the judges in conjunction with the contest coordinator.

Grand Prize – One entrant will be awarded the grand prize. The grand prize winner will receive a publishing offer from Bellwether, an imprint of the Ohio Writers' Association. The grand prize winner is not obligated to accept this offer of publication. The grand prize winner will also be awarded \$1,000 (USD), delivered via PayPal.

Runner-Up Prize – One entrant will be awarded the runner-up prize. The runner up will be awarded a \$500 (USD) delivered via PayPal, and a one-hour publishing consultation with Ohio Writers' Association President Brad Pauquette. This publishing consultation may take place via phone or video chat, and must be scheduled to occur within 60 days of announcement of runner-up. The runner-up will also receive a letter of recommendation for potential agents and publishers.

Finalist Prizes – The remaining eight finalists will receive a voucher that may be redeemed for one class through the Ohio Writers' Association (value not to exceed \$50 USD).

Notifications – All winners will be notified by e-mail. Contestants must respond to all requests within 7 days. If e-mail response is not received within 7 days, the entrant may be disqualified at the discretion of OWA.

Disqualifications – Disqualified entrants will be notified and apprised of the reason for their disqualification. All disqualifications are determined by the contest coordinator and are permanent.

Refunds, Withdrawal and Contest Cancellation – Except in the case of contest cancellation, no refunds will be provided. Any entrant may withdraw their submission at any time by contacting OWA, but no refund will be provided.

OWA may cancel this contest at any time for any reason. If OWA cancels the contest, a full and immediate refund will be provided to all entrants who have paid a submission fee.

Additional Terms – The contest is void where prohibited by law. These rules may be changed at the discretion of OWA. Contestants will be given notice of any rule changes. Any attempt to undermine the contest, bypass security or otherwise infringe on the integrity of the contest will result in disqualification.

Rights of Publicity – By entering this contest, you authorize OWA to publicly distribute your name, identity, and the title of your work via electronic and print communication.

By submitting your work to The Great Novel Contest (2020) you agree to the above rules and regulations and agree that this document satisfactorily summarizes your relationship with the contest and OWA.