**National Writing Contests, Updated April 25, 2022**

Lots of contests are available for both new and experienced writers, and the lists below are by no means exhaustive. They are easily found by searching the internet, and they are therefore open to lots of writers.

**Websites that list multiple contests for all types of manuscripts**

Fortunately, some websites have compiled lists of contests, and they are worth visiting periodically. A few were omitted because the deadlines for their lists of contests were already expired for 2022.

**Book Awards Contests (Updated for 2022)**. This website lists 58 awards contests with entry fees ranging up to $200. The contests are primarily for published books. Your reward, as a winner, is an award rather than a cash prize. Categories include both adult and children’s books. At least three of the contests are for Christian books. Check out the entry for Hollywood Book Festival, which has 15 categories, including how-to and biography/autobiography, as well as a wildcard category where “anything goes.” [Book Awards Contests (Updated for 2022) - Isabella Media Inc](https://isabellamedia.com/2022/04/book-awards-contests-updated-for-2022/)

**Free Writing Contests**. This website lists contests with no entry fees and claims to be updated daily. Lots of categories are included, such as flash fiction, dribble flash fiction (50 words), dialogue only, horror, western, true story, non-fiction, and first book chapter. The categories are for short stories (up to 5,000 words) or flash fiction. Check out their blog for instructions on formatting. If you visit this website, you’re bound to find a contest that appeals to you. Most have cash prizes. Deadlines are throughout 2022. [Free Writing Contests - Online Writing Competitions 2022 (free-writing-contests.com)](https://free-writing-contests.com/)

**List of Book Awards Contests (Updated 2022)**. This has a lot of the same entries as the Book Awards Contests shown above. However, they are grouped by type and also include cookbooks, business books, sci-fi, fantasy, horror, and several Christian books. Fees range from free to $200. <https://www.tckpublishing.com/book-awards-contests>

**Nothing in the Rulebook**. This site lists 40 writing competitions, many of which are in the U.K. They include the opening of a crime novel, poems about nature, one-act plays, writing by a first-generation resident of their country, a George Floyd Short Story Competition, a six-word story contest, and others. Entry fees are generally free or modest. Prizes range from $50 to around $5,000. Deadlines vary throughout 2022. [40 Writing Competitions for 2022 – nothing in the rulebook](https://nothingintherulebook.com/2022/02/21/40-writing-competitions-for-2022/)

**Poets & Writers 50 & Forward**. The list on this website includes poetry, short stories, essays, and novels. Entry fees range from $0 to $30, and most of the contests have sizable cash prizes or $1,000 or more. One contest by the Whiting Foundation provides up to eight grants of $40,000 each for creative non-fiction works-in-progress to enable writers to complete their books. This list has four pages on the website and includes lots of poetry contests. Deadlines vary throughout 2022. [Writing Contests, Grants & Awards | Poets & Writers (pw.org)](https://www.pw.org/grants)

**Reedsy**. Reedsy lists 464 writing contests that include just about every genre: essays, novels, poetry, short stories and story prompts, flash fiction, spring break stories, westerns, and numerous others. The submittal deadlines are throughout 2022. Some have cash prizes. Some have entry fees. The contest sponsors appear to be in both the U.S. and the U.K. The sheer volume of opportunities make this a website worth visiting and revisiting. <https://blog.reedsy.com/writing-contests>

**Writing Contests 2022.**  This site lists contests for poetry, short stories, and novels. The types of contests are varied. Some include prompts or themes that must be included. One invites modern fables written in the style of Robert Louis Stevenson. There is an Adventure Writers Competition, as well as essay contests, a prize for the first five pages of a longer work, Climate Fiction for Future Ancestors, Time Travel, and stories related to Judaism and Jewish culture and history. Entry fees range from free to $35, and prizes range up to $5,000. Deadlines range from April through July 2022. [2022 Writing Contests for Poets & Writers | Exciting Prizes! (papertrue.com)](https://blog.papertrue.com/writing-contests-2022/)

**29 Top Book Awards for Authors in 2022**. Scott Lorenz at Westwind Communications is a publisher, and he lists “top book awards worthy of your consideration.” The listed websites include books, poetry, business, romance, children’s books, and others. At least one competition is for a self-published book. Most involve entry fees. Although his list is for awards, rather than contests, many have substantial cash prizes. [29 Top Book Awards for Authors in 2022 - Book-publicist.com Blog](https://book-publicist.com/top-book-awards-for-authors/)

**50+ Writing Contests in 2022 with Awesome Cash Prizes.** This website lists a variety of contests, many of them free, for a variety of genres, including short stories, poetry, fiction and non-fiction novels, young adult, military fiction, and children’s books. The cash prizes are substantial. Contests target both new and established writers. Some of the entries are outdated as they have deadlines in 2021, although the deadlines are for the “2022 cycle” for those contests. <https://smartblogger.com/writing-contests>

**Books**

**Booksie 2022 First Chapter Novel Contest**. This contest is just for the first chapter of your book. You can submit the whole book, but judges will only review the first chapter. Grand prize is $500, and two runners-up will receive $100 each. You can submit multiple entries for a fee of $5.95 per entry. Deadline is May 14, 2022. [Booksie 2022 First Chapter Novel Contest](https://www.booksie.com/contest/booksie-2022-first-chapter-novel-contest-25)

**Novel Writing Competitions List for 2022**. Jessica Davidson has a list that is current as of April 6, 2022. She states that the competitions are for unpublished or self-published novels and novellas for international writers, plus a few for UK or US residents only. She updates it monthly. Many of the contests appear to be in the U.K. Fees, where required, are relatively low. Some of the entry categories include young adult, women, crime adventure writing, and children. [https://jesdavidson.wordpress.com/2021/01/30/novel-writing-competitions-list](https://jesdavidson.wordpress.com/2021/01/30/novel-writing-competitions-list%20)

**The Independent Author Network Book of the Year Awards 2022**. Categories include both fiction and non-fiction. There are 23 fiction categories, including historical fiction, holiday fiction, short story collection, humor, LGBTQ, romance, paranormal, novella, and romance. The 23 non-fiction categories include, among others, career, education, grief/hardship, health/medicine, parenting, self-help, travel/nature, writing/publishing, and poetry. The entry fee is $39 for the first category and $30 for each additional category, with no apparent limit to the number of entries. Prizes are $250 (3rd place), $500 (second place), and $1,000 (first place) in each category. A grand prize book of the year winner receives a minimum cash prize of $2,500. Deadline is August 15, 2022. [Book of the Year Awards Contest - The Independent Author Network](https://www.independentauthornetwork.com/book-of-the-year.html)

**Poetry**

The contests below are focused on poetry. However, some contests in the list of multiple contests above also include poetry.

**FanStory**. FanStory sponsors numerous contests, mostly for short poems in specific formats. They include haiku, five-line poems, 15-syllable poems, 6-word poems, etc. Contests include free verse and rhyming poems. Some contests are unique. The Acrostic Poetry Contest requires the first letter of each line to spell out a word. The Loop Poetry Contest requires you to use the last word of each sentence as the starting word of the next sentence. The Tanka poem has five lines and a specific syllable count. This site could be a lot of fun if you are looking for something different. I didn’t see any entry fees. Cash prizes are $100. Deadlines vary throughout 2022, but some are coming up in a matter of days. [Poetry Contests For 2022 - A List of Poetry Contests (fanstory.com)](https://www.fanstory.com/page/poetry_contests/poetry_contests.jsp)

**20 Poetry Contests to Enter In 2022**. This is an interesting list of contests. Entries for the New American Press must be at least 48 pages long and is for serious poets. The prize is $1,500. Similarly, the Colorado Prize and the Andres Montoya Prize are for entries between 48 and 100 pages in length. The Hippocrates Prize is for poems with a medical theme or written by a medical professional. The Derek Walcott Prize is for non-U.S. citizens. Others are for entrants in specific geographic areas or for students still in school. The Sustainable Arts Foundation requires entrants to have at least one child living at home. The list also includes a context sponsored by the Haiku Society of America. A few require entry fees. Cash prizes range from modest to substantial. Deadlines run throughout 2022. [20 Poetry Contests To Enter In 2022 (becomeawritertoday.com)](https://becomeawritertoday.com/poetry-contests/)

**25 Poetry Contests to Enter in 2022**. Ginger Ayla lists 25 contests that she is considering entering this year. She calculated that entering all of the contests would cost $456 and thinks that any fee over $20 is questionable. Entry fees for the contests she lists are modest, and the prizes range from $100 to $3,000. Some contests are for manuscripts of 48 pages or more. Deadlines for some contests have already passed.

[25 Poetry Contests To Enter in 2022 | by Ginger Ayla | Medium](https://gingerayla.medium.com/25-poetry-contests-to-enter-in-2022-c446c6fc12f5)

**2022 Free Poetry Contests to Award Up to $10,000 in cash Prizes**. This site isn’t for everyone. It lists ten poetry competitions with a $0 entry fee, but most have restrictions on who can enter, e.g., Canadian students in grades 9-12, residents of upper Midwest states, members of tribal nations, self-published African-Americans, etc. One of the contests is to award top translations of modern Italian poetry into English. Prizes range up to $10,000. Some of the 2022 deadlines are already past, but a few are still open. [2022 Free Poetry Contests to Award Up to $10,000 in Cash Prizes | Writers’ Blokke (medium.com)](https://medium.com/writers-blokke/2022-free-poetry-contests-to-award-up-to-10-000-in-cash-prizes-37db10f8177b)

**Scripts and TV Writing**

Most agents and publishers specifically state they do not want screenplays. Here are some contests that are oriented to that genre.

**Big Break**. Final Draft’s Big Break Screenwriting Contest is an annual, international feature film and television screenwriting contest designed to help launch the careers of aspiring writers. The grand prize is $10,000 and a chance to meet with “renowned Hollywood screenwriters:” and others. Entries must be between 20 and 150 pages. Entry fees are $59 for the categories of Feature and Television or Diversity Feature and Television if you submit your entries by June 21, 2021. The fees go up to $69 if you submit by July 12th, and $79 if you submit by August 2, 2022. [www.finaldraft.com](http://www.finaldraft.com)

**Industrial Scripts**. The Titan screenwriting contest has ten categories, and ten prizes will be awarded. In addition to the expected genres are TV Series Bible, Short Film, and 1-Page Film or TV Pitch. After determining winners in all of the categories, the judges will select the top three winners for the gold ($5,000), silver ($2,000), and bronze ($1,000) prizes. Additional perks for the winners include meetings with career coaches, lunches with the Titans, script marketing, and various courses. Photos and credentials of the judges are on the website. No entry fees were listed. The remaining deadlines are the Regular deadline by May 31, 2022 and the Final deadline by June 30, 2022. [Enter The TITAN - Industrial Scripts®](https://industrialscripts.com/enter-the-titan/)

**Script Pipeline.** Located in Santa Monica, CA, Script Pipeline’s 15th Script Pipeline TV Writing Competition and 20th Annual Screenwriting Competition are searching for talented writers to introduce to production companies, managers, and agencies. The deadline is May 31, 2022 with a fee of $75, but the fee is lower if you submit your entry sooner. Winner of each competition receives $25,000, while the runners up receive $2,500. [2022 Screenwriting Contest – Script Pipeline](https://scriptpipeline.com/shop/screenwriting-contest?msclkid=41cd8a54ef521361f9b0e830b209a769)

**Short Stories**

The contests below are focused on short stories and essays. However, some contests in the list of multiple contests above also include these categories.

**Spring 2022 Story Contest**. Narrative Magazine sponsors a story contest for both fiction and non-fiction categories. Entries may include short stories, essays, memoirs, photo essays, graphic stories, literary nonfiction, and excerpts from longer work. Maximum length is 165,000 words. The submission fee is $27 for each entry with prizes ranging from $100 each for ten finalists to $2,500 for first prize. In addition, all contest entries are eligible for the $4,000 Narrative Prize.Deadline is July 31, 2022. [Spring 2022 Story Contest | Narrative Magazine](https://www.narrativemagazine.com/spring-2022-story-contest)

**The Writers College.** This site lists a variety of competitions for short stories and poetry, many of which are in the U.K. Prizes are modest.. Deadlines range from April through October 31, 2022.

[Short Story Writing Competitions - The Writers College](https://www.thewriterscollege.com/short-story-writing-competitions/)