

2016 HIGH SCHOOL WRITERS’ WORKSHOP

UW-STEVENS POINT

**INSTRUCTIONS**

Examine the **FIVE** writing categories described in the following pages and prepare your entries. Fill out the entry form on the last page of this flyer or provide the requested information on a separate sheet of paper. Ask your instructor to submit your entries with those of others in your class and send them to UWSP Writers' Workshop, English Department, Stevens Point, WI 54481 or send yours individually.

**ENTRIES NEED TO BE RECEIVED BY THE ENGLISH DEPARTMENT by Friday, OCTOBER 14, 2016**. Entries must be typed, double-spaced on numbered pages, and include the author's name and school in the upper right-hand corner of each page. You may single space poetry submissions. Students are advised to keep a copy of each entry in case of loss. NOTE: Specify whether you are a junior or senior AND indicate the genre category for each entry you submit.

Entries in each category will be judged by the faculty member who leads the workshop at UWSP. Approximately twelve to twenty writers of the best submissions in each genre will be invited to attend one or more workshops, and certificates and scholarships will be awarded at the end of the event.

**🡺** If your students are invited to this year’s Writers’ Workshop, **you will hear from us by Monday, November 14, 2016. The workshop will be held December 1, 2016.**

**THE DAY OF THE WORKSHOP**

Sessions will be held in both the morning and afternoon. Students honored in more than one genre will have the opportunity to work with two experts. Lunch for invited students is provided at the Dreyfus University Center. The day will end with an awards ceremony for the presentation of certificates and a $1,000 scholarship to UWSP in each genre.

**OPEN MIC OPPORTUNITY**

Depending on availability, UWSP student writers may read from their fiction, poetry, and non-fiction pieces. These students may also be available for discussion and to answer questions about writing and what it’s like to be a UWSP student and writer. An open reading-may follow during which you are encouraged to read from your work. Please bring your own fiction, poetry, and familiar essays!

**SUBMISSION CATEGORIES**

**1. THE FAMILIAR ESSAY**

The familiar essay has a long history, including such famous names as Montaigne, Charles Lamb, Virginia Woolf, and, in our own time, E. B. White, James Thurber, and Anna Quindlen. The subject of the familiar essay is anything under the sun that interests and amuses the essayist, but it must also interest the reader. Writing personally, the familiar essayist must write about what other people think, feel, and experience: the difficulties of growing up, the pain and joy of first love, the sorrow of loss, and the delight of discovery. Never definitive, always personal, this type of writing should be light, informal and conversational. Submissions may range from 500 to 1200 words.

**2. OUTDOOR ESSAYS**

Outdoor essays focus on humans’ interaction with the natural world. The topic of these non-fiction essays must be outdoor-oriented and involve activities that reflect the natural world. Acceptable topics are those such as hiking, camping, hunting, fishing, canoeing, birding, etc. Topics that do not fit this category are those such as disc golfing, downhill skiing, wakeboarding, etc. Essays may be written in first-person and are 500-750 words.

**3. THE SHORT STORY**

Students who wish to participate in the Short Story Workshop may submit one story of up to twenty pages on any subject but should avoid contrived plots, false happy endings, sentimentality, and formula writing. Instead, try to write stories that attempt to deal honestly

and clearly with the problems and pleasures of being human. It would be better to look for your stories in your own experiences or the experiences of people you know than to look to television, movies, or books.

**4. SPECULATIVE FICTION**

Speculative Fiction includes such sub-genres as [science fiction](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Science_fiction), [fantasy](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fantasy), [horror](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Horror_fiction), [supernatural fiction](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Supernatural_fiction), [superhero fiction](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Superhero_fiction), [utopian and dystopian fiction](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Utopian_and_dystopian_fiction), [apocalyptic and post-apocalyptic fiction](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Apocalyptic_and_post-apocalyptic_fiction) and [alternate histories](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alternate_history_%28fiction%29). Students who wish to participate in the Speculative Fiction Workshop may submit one story of up to twenty-five pages on any subject but should avoid contrived plots, false happy endings, sentimentality, and formula writing. In the Workshop, students will identify some of the elements that make a successful speculative fiction story.

**5. POETRY**

Each writer should submit at least four and no more than seven **original** poems. Submit clean, legible copies of manuscripts. In selecting participants, we look for poems that are well-crafted and exciting–poems that show a strong use of imagery and concrete detail, precise diction, a sense of the rhythms of language, and the ability to create striking metaphors. Form and theme should interact.

**2016 UWSP Writers’ Workshop ENTRY FORM**

**Name (please print)**

Year in School

Name of School

Address of School

Category of Entry

**Name AND EMAIL of Sponsoring Teacher**

Fill out this entry blank (or a copy of it) or write down the information that the entry blank requests on a separate sheet of paper; attach this information to your submission.

**Please submit all writing through the U.S. mail. Do not email submissions.**

**Submissions must be received by the English Department no later than Friday, October 14, 2016.**

*Kelly Thompson*

*UWSP Writers' Workshop*

*1801 4th Ave.*

*CCC-English Department*

*UW-Stevens Point*

*Stevens Point, WI 54481*

* We do not send submissions back, so please keep copies of what you send us.
* **Any questions? Feel free to e-mail Jeff Snowbarger at** **jsnowbar@uwsp.edu** **or Kelly Thompson** **kthompso@uwsp.edu** **(715-346-4758).**

*The following university offices and agencies provide financial support, which makes the Writers’ Workshop possible.*

***The College of Letters and Sciences….Charles Cirmo, Dean***

***The English Department….Michael Williams, Chair***

***The UWSP Foundation***