



Department of English  
College of Letters and Science  
University of Wisconsin - Stevens Point

# High School Writers' Workshop

## General Information

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**Join the Department of English on Wednesday, December 4, 2019!**

This event is for students who love to write. Students will attend writing workshops led by English Department faculty, experience a reading by a published writer, be introduced to our student-staffed publishing house, participate in group writing activities, and have an opportunity to share their work at open mic. Emerging creative writers will learn about the educational opportunities linked to an education in Literature, English Education, and Writing, Editing, and Publishing!

Interested students must submit a written work in one of five genres. Department faculty will then use the submissions to assign students to workshops. Additionally, faculty will find one exceptional senior from each genre and honor those students with \$1000 scholarships to attend UW-Stevens Point next year!

The submission deadline is Friday, November 1, 2019. See the Genres, Submission Requirements and Entry Form below for additional information. There is no registration fee to attend. When the number of entries received is over the capacity for the event, acceptance will be based on the quality of writing.

The genre chosen will, for the most part, determine the student's workshop placement at the event, but the amount of entries received overall will also determine placement. Students may submit to more than one genre and may be able to attend two different workshops (depending on submissions received). Genre descriptions are below and instructions for the submission are on the following page.

## Genres

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### **THE FAMILIAR ESSAY**

The familiar essay has a long history. Famous authors, such as Montaigne, Virginia Woolf, David Sedaris, James Baldwin, and Roxane Gay, have worked in this genre. The subject of the familiar essay is anything under the sun that interests and amuses the essayist, but it must also interest the reader. The familiar essayist writes 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.

*Submission requirement: Essay may range from 500 to 1200 words.*

### **OUTDOOR ESSAY**

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.

*Submission requirement: Essay may be written in first-person and range from 500-750 words.*

## **THE SHORT STORY**

The short story may be on any subject but should avoid contrived plots, falsely happy endings, sentimentality, and formulaic writing. Instead, try to write stories that attempt to deal honestly and clearly with the problems and pleasures of being human. Consider telling stories grounded in your own experiences or the experiences of people you know.

*Submission requirement: One story up to 20 pages on any subject.*

## **SPECULATIVE FICTION**

Speculative Fiction includes such sub-genres as science fiction, fantasy, horror, supernatural fiction, superhero fiction, utopian and dystopian fiction, apocalyptic and post-apocalyptic fiction and alternate histories.

Speculative fiction stories may be on any subject but should avoid contrived plots, false happy endings, sentimentality, and formula writing.

*Submission requirement: One story of up to twenty-five pages.*

## **POETRY**

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.

*Submission requirements: At least four and no more than seven original poems, that are clean, legible manuscripts.*

## **Submission Requirements**

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Examine details and directions for each of the five genres and prepare your entry. Each entry must include the required information and have an entry form with it. Each writing submission requires its own entry form. Writings with missing information will not be accepted. All submissions must be mailed to the following address. Emailed entries will not be accepted, and submissions will not be returned (ensure you have a copy).

**Deadline: Friday, November 1, 2019.**

### **SUBMIT TO:**

Department of English  
c/o High School Writers' Workshop  
Collins Classroom Center Room 486  
UW-Stevens Point  
1801 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Stevens Point, WI 54481

### **ALL SUBMISSIONS:**

- Must include an entry form (filled out completed and printed clearly) for each writing submission.
- Must be typed, double-spaced and on numbered pages (poetry may be single-spaced).
- Must include the author's typed name and school name in the upper right-hand corner of each page of the writing.
- Students are advised to keep a copy of each entry in case of loss.

If selected to attend, you will be notified by November 15, 2019

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## Entry Form

Attach this entry form to the top of your writing and identify your essay's category below. You may submit to more than one genre, but each submission must include its own entry form. Incomplete and illegible entry forms WILL NOT be accepted. This form is due by November 1, 2019.

- CHECK ONE ESSAY CATEGORY:**
- THE FAMILIAR ESSAY
  - OUTDOOR ESSAY
  - THE SHORT STORY
  - SPECULATIVE FICTION
  - POETRY

**CIRCLE YOUR YEAR IN SCHOOL:**    SOPHOMORE                      JUNIOR                      SENIOR

**CONTACT INFORMATION:** Please PRINT CLEARLY and fill out COMPLETELY.

School's Name	
Attending Student	
First and Last Name	
Home Address	
City, State and Zip	
Home Phone Number	
Parent/Guardian Information	
First and Last Name	
Home Address	
City, State and Zip	
Email Address and Phone Number	
Attending Chaperone:	
<b>CHECK ONE:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> I am not attending with a chaperone	
<input type="checkbox"/> My attending chaperone is my parent/guardian listed above	
<input type="checkbox"/> My attending chaperone is my teacher listed below	
Name	
Phone Number	
Email Address	

**REQUIRED:** A UW-Stevens Point Liability and Photo Release Form is required by each participant who plans to attend the event. Forms must be signed by a parent or guardian and not by the teacher or attending chaperone. Please submit your Liability and Photo Release form by November 1, 2019 with your written work and entry form. Forms are found on the event website at: <https://www.uwsp.edu/english/HSWW/Pages/default.aspx>