

WRITER'S DIGEST

WRITER'S DIGEST SELF PUBLISHED E-BOOK AWARDS DEADLINES, PRICING, AND NOTIFICATION



*Whether you're a professional writer, a part-time freelancer or a self-starting student, here's your chance to enter the premier self-published competition exclusively for self-published electronic books...the **e-book**. Writer's Digest hosts the **9th Annual Self-Published E-book Awards**. This self-published competition spotlights today's self-published books and honors authors in the digital format. If you're ready to take the next step in your self-publishing journey, get ready to submit your self-published E-book(s) today.*

Ready to enter the **Writer's Digest 9th Annual Self-Published E-book Awards**? See below for pricing and deadline information. All entry fees are due in U.S. Dollars. Entry fees must be paid online by credit card/debit card (MC, V, AMEX & DISC) or PayPal.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Early-Bird Deadline*: August 16th, 2021

\$99 for the first entry; \$85 for each additional** entry.

Regular Deadline*: September 20th, 2021

•\$125 for the first entry; \$110 for each additional** entry.

**All deadlines are at 11:59 PM EST, on the specified date.*

***Additional entry discounts are only available when using the linked entry form offered during submission of a full price entry. We cannot offer refunds for discounts not redeemed through the linked form.*

Top Award Winners will be notified by December 31, 2021. Top winners in each category will be listed in the May/June 2022 issue of Writer's Digest and at www.writersdigest.com after the May/June 2022 issue is published. Commentaries will be available in your Submittable dashboard under 'REVIEWS' by end of business January 31st, 2022. Entrants not selected as winners will not be notified at this time. Non-winning submissions will receive a competition status update in the weeks following the notification of winners.

WRITER'S DIGEST

WRITER'S DIGEST SELF-PUBLISHED E-BOOK AWARDS PRIZES AND PROSPECTUS



The Writer's Digest 9th **Annual Self-Published E-book Awards** honors the best self-published e-book(s) and their authors, in eight of the most popular categories. WD will be awarding \$5,000 in cash, a featured interview in *Writer's Digest* magazine, and a paid trip to the ever-popular Writer's Digest Annual Conference in New York City! In addition to \$13,000 in total cash prizes, all entrants will receive a brief commentary on their work from one of *Writer's Digest's* readers.

EARLY-BIRD DEADLINE: 8/16/2021

THE PRIZES

One Grand Prize winner will receive:

- \$5,000 in cash
- Featured interview in the May/June 2022 issue of *Writer's Digest*
- Winning book excerpted on writersdigest.com
- A paid trip to the Writer's Digest Annual Conference, including a coveted Pitch Slam slot
- One year Subscription (new or renewal) to *Writer's Digest* magazine

One First Prize winner in each category will receive:

- \$1,000 in cash
- Announcement in *Writer's Digest's* May/June 2022 issue
- Promotion on WritersDigest.com
- One year Subscription (new or renewal) to *Writer's Digest* magazine

Honorable Mention Winners will receive:

- \$50 gift certificate to Writer's Digest Shop and an announcement on WritersDigest.com

Finalists will be announced on WritersDigest.com.

THE PARTICULARS

ELIGIBILITY

The competition is open to self-published authors of English-language e-books which were published (or revised and republished) electronically between 2016 and 2021*. (Writer's Digest may demand proof of eligibility of semifinalists.) Authors who subvent publication of their e-books via independent publishers who publish fewer than 12 e-books/year are also eligible. Authors who have published in print via a traditional publisher but retained their e-book rights and self-published or subvented publication via independent publishers who publish fewer than 12 e-books/year are also eligible. Entries will be evaluated on craft, category relevance, and overall quality of production, including cover image.

**By the time of submission, 2021.*

You'll find everything you'll need to know in this PDF, including:

- PRIZES
- DEADLINES, PRICING AND NOTIFICATION
- RULES AND GUIDELINES
- PREPARING YOUR ENTRY
- HOW TO ENTER
- FAQ's
- 2021-2022 COMPETITION SEASON PLANNER

❖ For questions related to any of the topics above, email us at: writersdigestselfpublishingcompetition@aimmedia.com

❖ For questions related to your *Submittable* account, including payment, contact: support@submittable.com or use the handy chat function on their website for the quicker response.



If you're ready to take the next step in your self-publishing journey, submit your self-published e-book(s) today! Read the Writer's Digest **9th Annual Self-Published E-book Awards** rules and guidelines below...

RULES AND GUIDELINES

- All entries must be submitted online. E-Books must be provided at time of submission. Entries must be accompanied by the required entry fee by credit/debit card or PayPal. All entries must be in English.
- There is no cap as to the number of submissions or categories that can be entered into the competition overall, however each submission is limited to one book and category (per entry).
- Have your necessary information, including your e-book or, at hand when you are ready to submit your entry.
- All submissions are final. Refunds are not provided for disqualified, withdrawn or non-winning entries. Once a submission has been checked out, it is entered into the competition and cannot with edited or replaced.
- If the Grand Prize Winner accepts the Writer's Digest Conference portion of their prize they must agree to travel (flying round-trip from the same city) during the conference dates in 2022. The editors or agents who meet with the Grand Prize Winner are under no obligation to read, buy or represent the Grand Prize Winner's work. This prize includes airfare, hotel and conference registration.
- Winners must fill out and submit the appropriate tax related forms in order to receive their cash awards. If the forms are not submitted within 60 days of the request date, cash awards may be forfeited.
- Writer's Digest retains one-time nonexclusive publication rights to the Grand Prize and top winning entries to be published in a Writer's Digest publication. **Authors retain all ownership of their work.**
- Check your spelling carefully including all login information, email addresses etc. Incorrect email addresses may result in the transmission of important information being delayed and/or unsuccessful. Be sure that our email addresses (*Writer's Digest* and *Submittable*) are not blocked, or you may not receive critical information, receipts, confirmations etc. Check your SPAM folder for any expected but unaccounted for email communications.
- The following are not permitted to enter the contest, neither under their legal names nor pen names: employees of Active Interest Media and their immediate family members; Writer's Digest Books authors; Writer's Digest contributing editors and columnists; and Writer's Digest instructors for online courses and live webinars. Grand Prize Winners from the previous three years are not eligible. Ineligible entries will be disqualified.
- Writer's Digest assumes all entries are original and are the works and property of the entrant, with all rights granted therein.
- Writer's Digest is not liable for any copyright infringement on the part of the entrant and will not become involved in copyright disputes.
- Writer's Digest reserves the right to reject work deemed unsuitable for publication or that does not meet all named criteria.
- *Winner Notification* dates refer to the date that all winners will be notified by. Entrants not selected as winners will not be notified at this time.
- Non-winning submissions will receive a competition status update in the weeks following the notification of winners.
- WD writing competitions are open to U.S. and non-U.S. residents; however, due to U.S. Government restrictions we are unable to accept entries from Syria, Iran, North Korea, or Crimea



The Writer's Digest 9th **Annual Self-Published E-book Awards** honors the best self-published e-book(s) and their authors, in eight of the most popular categories. To get started submitting your work, see the helpful tips below...

PREPARING YOUR ENTRY

- All entries must be submitted online through *Submittable*. If you already have a *Submittable* account, simply log in!
- Please be sure that the email address that you provide will be valid throughout the competition span. Competition related updates and winner notifications are sent via email. Please type carefully and list only one email address. Check your spelling carefully including all login information, email addresses etc. Incorrect email addresses may result in the transmission of important information being delayed and/or unsuccessful. Be sure that our email addresses (*Writer's Digest* and *Submittable*) are not blocked, or you may not receive critical information, receipts, confirmations etc. Check your SPAM folder for any expected but unaccounted for email communications.
- You must enter online and must provide either a *file* or a *gifted copy of the book* in true e-book form*. **A file of your book, published/readable in true e-book form-to be readable on computers or other electronic devices. E-books can be read on dedicated e-reader devices or computer that feature a controllable viewing screen. or submit your entry by using a gifting process such as Amazon.*
- Acceptable file types include .epub, .mobi (PDFs, Microsoft Word documents and other word processing type documents (.doc, .docx, .odt, etc.) are not acceptable file types.) If submitting your book by using the Amazon gifting process, please follow the instructions provided. If you do not have the book file and cannot gift us a copy through Amazon, there is a space on the entry form where you can provide us instructions for obtaining a complimentary copy of your e-book. If selecting "Other" as your delivery method, please note that the book itself must be able to be accessed using a one-click link that provides immediate download and/or access to the book via: a code. Judges will not provide personal information of any sort, nor will they set up accounts, provide emails etc., nor can they retrieve a book using a gift certificate or anything of monetary value. If you are submitting a file; please follow the requirements for that delivery method.



The Writer's Digest 9th **Annual Self-Published E-book Awards** honors the best self-published e-book(s) and their authors, in eight of the most popular categories. To get started submitting your work, see the helpful tips below...

PREPARING YOUR ENTRY (continued)

Writer's Digest's 9th Annual Self-Published E-book Awards honors the best self-published e-book(s) and their authors, in eight of the most popular categories.

- If gifting a copy of your book, please note that gift codes must be valid until through the entire competition-up to the winner notification date. iTunes gift codes have a particularly redemption period, shorter than the duration of the competition. For this reason, books published through iTunes should be provided as a .mobi or .epub file instead).
- Additional files/books/codes may be requested of semi-finalists.
- Note to foreign entrants: If you do not live in the US and/or if the book is not available on a US Platform (ie: (US) Amazon.com vs. (non-US) Amazon.ca), then the book may not be available to us due to copyright restrictions. In these cases, please provide an actual file of your entry at the time of submission, instead of providing a gift code.
- Please note that bait books (free e-books that drive the reader to a traceable-author or otherwise-email list) are not to be acceptable, as they put a judges' anonymity at risk.
- Do not provide your book using a method that would require anyone-including a judge, to enter personal information of any sort. Judges will not set up accounts, provide emails, etc. in order to retrieve/review a book. In addition, our judges cannot retrieve a book using a gift certificate, or anything of monetary value).

AMAZON GIFTING PROCESS

HOW TO OBTAIN YOUR KINDLE BOOK REDEMPTION LINK

https://www.amazon.com/gp/help/customer/display.html/ref=help_search_1-1?ie=UTF8&nodeId=GE8EWPM8E5QG8E8E&qid=1593009561&sr=1-1

LOG IN to your Amazon **1-Click account**.

On your book's product page (be sure that you are selecting the Kindle version of the book), follow Amazon's gifting instructions under the BUY FOR OTHERS section. GIFT the book to yourself, listing your OWN email address as the recipient.

You (as the gift recipient) will then receive an email* announcing that you've received the gift; the subject line will read: "**Amazon.com: A Gift from [yourself]...**"



**Make sure that you are checking the same email address, as the one that you provided as the gift recipient email. If you use multiple email addresses with Amazon, you may need to check both.*

LOG OUT of your Amazon account.

CLICK ON '**Get your Kindle book gift now**'. You will be re-directed to the product page of the gifted copy of book. **DO NOT** 'Accept the Kindle book gift'; the link will not be useable by us if you do.

From the product/gift redemption page of the gifted book (once again, making sure that you are **LOGGED OUT** of your Amazon account), **COPY THE URL FROM YOUR BROWSER**, and paste it into your online submission form. (ex: "[https://www.amazon.com/gp/product/sample kindle-redemption.....](https://www.amazon.com/gp/product/sample%20kindle-redemption)")

IMPORTANT: DO NOT forward the Amazon emails to the competition office. Links must be copy/pasted into the online submission form.

Still need help?

Follow Amazon's instructions here: https://www.amazon.com/gp/help/customer/display.html/ref=help_search_1-1?ie=UTF8&nodeId=GE8EWPM8E5QG8E8E&qid=1593009561&sr=1-1



The Writer's Digest 9th **Annual Self-Published E-book Awards** honors the best self-published e-book(s) and their authors, in eight of the most popular categories. Select the main genre category that best represents your entry (all sub-genres are welcomed, no need to specify for the sake of judging).

FICTION CATEGORIES

- CONTEMPORARY
- ROMANCE
- FANTASY
- SCIENCE FICTION
- MYSTERY/THRILLER
- YOUNG ADULT

NON-FICTION CATEGORIES

• NARRATIVE NONFICTION

- ❖ *History*
- ❖ *Philosophy and insight*
- ❖ *Politics and Social Science*
- ❖ *Narrative nonfiction and true crime books*
- ❖ *Biographies*
- ❖ *Autobiographies*
- ❖ *Memoirs*
- ❖ *Family Histories*

• PRESCRIPTIVE/INFORMATIVE NONFICTION

- ❖ *Entertainment*
- ❖ *Self-Help & Personal Development, Inspirational*
- ❖ *Religion & Spirituality, Cultural, and Social Issues*
- ❖ *Health, Fitness, & Dieting*
- ❖ *Lifestyle*
- ❖ *Politics & Social Sciences*
- ❖ *Cookbooks, Food, & Wine*
- ❖ *Business & Money*
- ❖ *Parenting & Relationships*
- ❖ *Education & Teaching*
- ❖ *Crafts, Hobbies & Home, Garden & Farm*



The Writer's Digest 9th **Annual Self-Published E-book Awards** honors the best self-published e-book(s) and their authors, in eight of the most popular categories. Select the main category that best represents your entry (all sub-genres are welcomed, no need to specify for the sake of judging).

CATEGORY DESCRIPTIONS

- **Contemporary Fiction:** A work of fiction set in modern times with themes and/or subject matter that reflects this specific moment. Typical length*: 40,000 to 100,000 words. There are no limits for submissions; novellas to epics are all welcomed.
- **Romance:** Historical or contemporary, paranormal or suspenseful, chaste or sexy, LGBTQ+, no matter the path you take, don't forget to deliver a satisfying happy ending. Typical length*: 40,000 to 100,000 words. There are no limits for submissions; novellas to epics are all welcomed.
- **Fantasy:** High or urban, historical or alternate histories, introduce us to new worlds and fantastic ideas that exceed the boundaries of our own reality. Typical length*: 40,000 to 100,000 words. There are no limits for submissions; novellas to epics are all welcomed.
- **Science Fiction:** Space opera or hard science, cyberpunk or steampunk, introduce us to new worlds, alternate histories, or fantastic ideas that push the boundaries of our own reality. Typical length*: 40,000 to 100,000 words. There are no limits for submissions; novellas to epics are all welcomed.
- **Mystery/Thriller:** From the classic whodunits and police procedurals to high stakes conflicts with ever-increasing tension, hook us from the start and keep us guessing until the end. Typical length*: 40,000 to 100,000 words. There are no limits for submissions; novellas to epics are all welcomed.
- **Young Adult:** Your preferred genre(s) but written specifically for readers age 12-18. Typical length*: 30,000 to 100,000 words. There are no limits for submissions; novellas to epics are all welcomed.
- **Narrative Nonfiction:** Journalists and storytellers whose nonfiction work reads like it could be fiction (but isn't!) should apply to this category which includes memoirs, biographies, historical narratives, popular science, travel writing, essay collections, etc. Typical length*: 40,000 to 100,000 words.
- **Prescriptive/Informative Nonfiction:** Subject-matter experts who aim to instruct or inform readers will find a home for their work in this category, which consists primarily of research-based works such as travel guides, cookbooks, how-to guides/reference, self-help, business, etc. Typical length*: 40,000 to 100,000 words.

**The typical length is a reference point only. There are no word requirements for submissions.*

WRITER'S DIGEST

WRITER'S DIGEST SELF-PUBLISHED E-BOOK AWARDS

HOW TO ENTER



Writer's Digest writing competitions have been recognizing writing excellence on a global scale for over 90 years. Here's how to enter the **Writer's Digest 9th Annual Self-Published E-book Awards!**

ENTERING IS EASY!

Create your free *Submittable* account by clicking the *SUBMIT* button. If you already have a *Submittable* account, simply log in!

You can compete in multiple WD competitions with a single Submittable login! Check www.writersdigest.com/wd-competitions often for an updated list of current competitions.

When you are ready to submit your work to the **WD Self-Published E-book Awards** readers, you'll want to have the following information available:

- ✓ **Your contact information** *(be careful that the information provided is accurate). Contact information is to be provided only on the submission form (not on the submission's file upload). Time sensitive information such as credits and contact information (for prize distribution) is taken directly from the submission form. Due to the nature of deadlines, corrections to this information are not guaranteed.*
- ✓ **Your Self-Published E-book Awards submission book (via link or file)** *(see the PREPARING YOUR ENTRY tips for more information).*
- ✓ **Your method of payment** *(see the ENTRY PRICING, SUBMISSION DEADLINES AND WINNER NOTIFICATION page for tips for all pricing and deadlines).*

Ready to enter? Go to: <https://writersdigest.submittable.com/submit/713bdfde-cf6b-4373-bb22-809dac0ed7e5/self-published-e-book-awards-2021> to get started!



Ready to enter the **Writer's Digest 9th Annual Self-Published E-book Awards**, but still have a few questions?

ANSWERS TO FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS...

For Writer's Digest Competition related questions and queries, please contact us at: writersdigestselfpublishingcompetition@aimmedia.com

Having troubles logging in? Competition submissions are collected using the online submission system *SUBMITTABLES*. For help using their system, and for payment related questions (during or after submission) go to: <https://submittable.help/en/articles/923459-how-do-i-sign-in-to-my-submittable-account>

Are there any restrictions regarding content, language, subject matter etc.? No, we do not have any restrictions or preferences. Competition entries must be submitted in English.

Are there word count requirements for this competition? No, this competition does not have any length or word count requirements.

Do you allow simultaneous submissions? Yes, simultaneous submissions are certainly allowed. Simply inform us of acceptance elsewhere, if applicable.

What are your formatting requirements? Please provide either a file or a gifted copy of your published e-book, book in true e-book form (including the cover art).

e-books (including e-book files) are formatted and published to be read on dedicated e-reader devices or computer that feature a controllable viewing screen.

Are pen names allowed? Yes, you may enter under a pen name. Include your pen name on all forms as you would wish for them to appear in any credits. Please be advised (and advise us of it if you are notified as a winner) that we only need your legal name if you are chosen as a winner (in order to issue prizes).

What if I wanted to submit multiple titles (books), as a series?

Per our rules and guidelines, we can only accept a single book per submission (including books in a series). Because books are assigned to judges randomly, we are not able to guarantee that the same judge will be assigned all titles within the series. From within Submittable, message us on the same day that you submit your entries, and we will certainly try our best to coordinate the same judge for all books in a series.

What if I would like to edit or exchange an entry that I have already submitted? Once an entry has been submitted, we do not accept edits, replacements or exchanges. If you wish to re-enter an edited piece, it is most acceptable and is considered to be a new entry. You may wish to slightly alter the entry title or the file name in these cases, so that you are able to identify the versions-should you be selected as a winner.

Is there an age limit for entrants? All contest entrants must be aged 18 years or older or over the age of majority in the jurisdiction in which they reside.

How do I submit my entry fees? All entry fees are due in U.S. Dollars. Entry fees can be paid online by credit card/debit card (MC, V, AMEX & DISC) or PayPal.

Once the competition is over, will you return my entry? Entries are not returned.

WRITER'S DIGEST

2021-2022 COMPETITION SEASON PLANNER



The Writer's Digest collection of competitions, all which are held on a yearly basis, have long-standing respect within the writing community. Over 90 years ago, Writer's Digest launched its first writing competition. Today, Writer's Digest holds six competitions, with a combined twenty-eight categories. Honoring writers across a variety of genres and formats including short pieces (fiction and non-fiction), poetry, performance scripts, articles (print or online) and self-published books, Writer's Digest has a competition to highlight your work. Winners are eligible for cash prizes, free trips to our ever-popular Writer's Digest Annual Writing Conference, promotion in our print magazine and website, and more.

We hope that you'll join us and share your work in any (better yet--all) of the competitions! Sharpen your pencils, sync your devices, and mark your calendars!

WD ANNUAL WRITING COMPETITION

Early-Bird Deadline: May 6, 2022

- Poetry entry—\$20 for the first entry; \$15 for each additional poetry entry.
- Manuscript entry—\$30 for the first entry; \$25 for each additional manuscript entry.

Regular Deadline: June 6, 2022

- Poetry entry—\$25 for the first entry; \$20 for each additional poetry entry.
- Manuscript entry—\$35 for the first entry; \$30 for each additional manuscript entry.

WD POETRY AWARDS

Early-Bird Deadline: October 1, 2021

- First entry—\$20
- Each additional entry—\$15

Regular Deadline: November 1, 2021

- First entry—\$25
- Each additional entry—\$20

WD SELF-PUBLISHED BOOK AWARDS

Early-Bird Deadline: April 1, 2022

- First entry—\$99
- Each additional entry—\$85

Regular Deadline: May 2, 2022

- First entry—\$125
- Each additional entry—\$110

WD PERSONAL ESSAY AWARDS

Early-Bird Deadline: September 1, 2021

- All entries—\$25
- Each additional entry—\$20

Regular Deadline: October 1, 2021

WD SHORT SHORT STORY COMPETITION

Early-Bird Deadline: November 15, 2021

- First entry—\$25
- Each additional entry—\$20

Regular Deadline: December 15, 2021

WD SELF-PUBLISHED E-BOOK AWARD

Early-Bird Deadline: August 16, 2021

- First entry—\$99
- Each additional entry—\$85

Deadline: September 20, 2021

- First entry—\$125
- Each additional entry—\$110

**Additional entry discounts are only available when using the linked entry form offered during submission of a full price entry. We cannot offer refunds for discounts not redeemed through the linked form.*