

2025 F.A.C.T. Flash Fiction Contest *

Details and Submission Guidelines

Thank you for joining this year's Flash Fiction Contest! Sharpen your pens and pixels, test your mettle against other workshop students, and stretch your minds in the name of fun and prizes.

The contest is open to any workshop student member of ArmadilloCon 2017 through 2025. If you purchased a membership but were unable to attend, you are still welcome to join the contest. You may also join the contest by registering for this year's Writers' Workshop. (Registration opens soon.)

This year's prompt word is "[tundra](#)." The tundra may be literal, figurative, consequential, decorative, etc., as long as you use the word "tundra" somewhere in the text.

Submission

- Submission portal opens: **March 16, 2025**
- The submission **portal link** will be posted on the [F.A.C.T. Flash Fiction Contest webpage](#) on March 16, 2025.
- Submission Deadline: **March 31, 2025, midnight CST (Austin time)**
- You will receive an **email confirmation** of your submission within 24 hours. If you do not receive an email, contact us at flashfiction@fact.org

Prizes!

1. Cash prizes!
 - First Place: \$100
 - Second Place: \$75
 - Third Place: \$50
2. Publication of the top three entries on F.A.C.T.'s website (with permission of the author). The top three pieces will also be given consideration for publication in [Space Squid](#) if they follow the publication's [contribution guidelines](#).
3. Mini-prizes from [Space Squid](#)*

Events

Contestants are invited to join F.A.C.T. and ArmadilloCon volunteers and fans at a social on Sunday, April 5, 2025, at 7pm to celebrate the close of the contest. Location TBD.

Contest winners will be announced and a reading of winning entries will take place on Saturday, April 26, 2025, at 7pm via Zoom.

Voting

Feedback is often key to making a good story great. Reading each other's work can also [help us refine our own writing and understand some of how editors think as they review our work](#).

After the contest deadline, you will receive a link to participate in scoring submissions. Participation is optional, scoring will be blind, and no participants will score their own work.

If you choose to participate, you will be asked to grant points to each piece based on a handful of broad criteria and to provide brief comments to the author. Comments should focus on details you loved, possible missed opportunities, and aspects the author may not have considered. Be respectful and positive in your feedback, as that is how we keep each other writing!

Everyone who participates in scoring will be entered into a drawing for mini-prizes donated by [F.A.C.T. \(the Fandom Association of Central Texas\)](#).

Manuscript and Submission Guidelines

The basics: Only one submission per contestant. Only your own original work (this means no plagiarism and no use of AI software in the writing process). Only NON-PUBLISHED work.

- Complete the online form that includes you granting us permission to distribute your story to voters for the purpose of this contest.
- That online form is also where you ATTACH and THEN SUBMIT your electronic manuscript in WORD DOCUMENT or RICH TEXT (.doc, .docx, .rtf) in [proper manuscript format](#). Your name and identifying information will be removed from the manuscript before it is provided to voters.
- MAXIMUM LENGTH IS 1,000 WORDS (including the title). The word count limit is firm. No exceptions. Manuscripts longer than the maximum length will not be included in the contest.
- GENRE: Any speculative fiction genre (science fiction, fantasy, horror, slipstream, bizarro, etc.)
- DEADLINE: The deadline is firm. The submission portal will close on March 31, 2025, midnight CST (Austin time). Please err on the side of submitting too early. You may resubmit until the deadline; the last piece you submit will be considered your submission for the contest.
- Send any questions to flashfiction@fact.org .

* [Space Squid](#) also runs a fast-flash fiction contest in the [ArmadilloCon](#) Hospitality Suite each year with low stakes and hilarious prizes. Come write your fastest and experience the joy!