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# Get Your Creative Writing Tutored

Writing Center tutors would love to talk with you about your work. In the past, we’ve tutored poems, short stories, novels, and even poetry collections!

**Make an appointment to get feedback on:**

**Poetry**

- Form
- Style
- Word choice
- Rhythm and meter

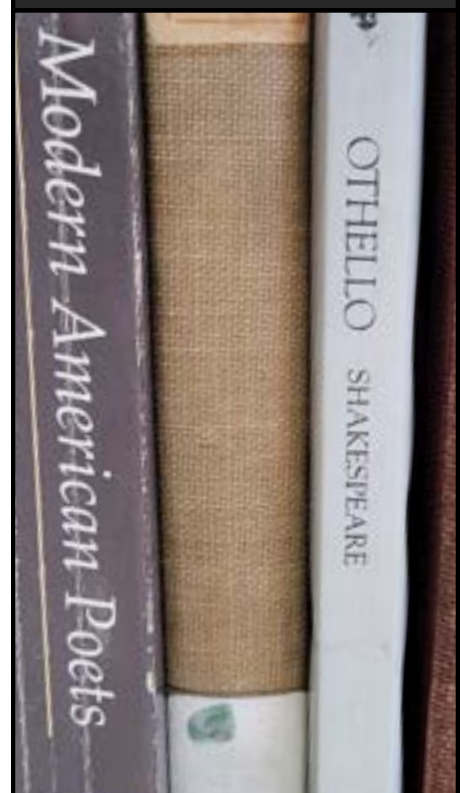
**Fiction/Nonfiction**

- Character development
- Worldbuilding
- Plotting
- Narrative voice

**General**

- Getting an outside perspective
- Staying accountable with your writing goals
- Brainstorming and outlining
- Much more!

Ask us about upcoming submission opportunities such as *Qua Literary and Fine Arts Magazine* and the Hopwood Program writing contests. We can help you prepare a submission.



## Spooktacular Writing Contest

Don't forget! The Writing Center is inviting students, faculty, and staff to celebrate the season by submitting a poem or short story to our annual Spooktacular Writing Contest. Enter for a chance to win fun prizes and a feature in both *Qua Literary and Fine Arts Magazine* and *Scrap Paper*! The deadline is **Sunday, October 22nd at 11:59 PM**.

More information on contest guidelines can be found on the [submission form](#).



## Qua Literary and Fine Arts Magazine

If you're interested in getting published, consider *Qua Literary and Fine Arts Magazine*, a UM-Flint magazine that features prose, poetry, and visual art from anyone living in the state of Michigan. The Fall 2023 issue deadline is coming up, so get those submissions in by **November 1st**! See their [submission form](#) for guidelines.

## Pass the Mic

It's happening on **November 8th from 7:00-8:30 PM**. Will YOU be there?

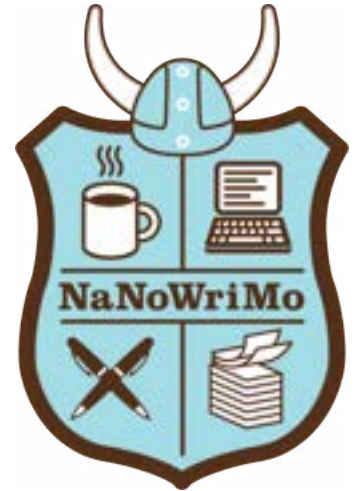
This virtual open mic is a great way for undergraduates across the University of Michigan campuses to share and celebrate their creative work. So bring your poems and short stories, essays and excerpts, and sign up for [Pass the Mic](#)!

Interested in reading? Contact UM-Flint's co-host, Noah Beaumont, at [noahbsb@umich.edu](mailto:noahbsb@umich.edu) for more information.



# What is National Novel Writing Month?

Every November, creative writers come together for National Novel Writing Month (NaNoWriMo). The goal: write 50,000 words—the standard length of a novel—in one month. That is 1,667 words per day. Whether you strive for that goal or one of your own making, participating in NaNoWriMo is a great way to make progress on your writing and find support from the writers around you.



*Image courtesy of NaNoWriMo.*

The NaNoWriMo organization provides tools and encouragement to participating writers. Their [website](#) helps writers make goals, track progress, connect with other writers, and more. They also have [novel preparation resources](#) available. NaNoWriMo hosts other events and activities as well, such as flexible writing challenges in April and July. Their site is free to join.

If you're interested in novel-writing, consider joining the [Writers' Circle](#) on **Thursdays 5:30-6:30 PM** for November writing sprints.

Looking for feedback as you prep your NaNo project? Consider [making an appointment](#) with one of our tutors, including but not limited to our newsletter staff featured below!



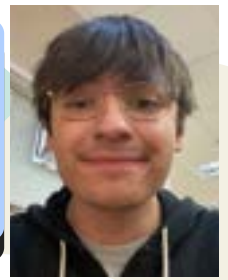
Kay

I like stories with fantasy and romance. I can help with character and world building, and am also interested in creative non-fiction!



Jacqueline

I prefer working on fiction of all kinds mostly with novels. I also like developing setting and working with character dialogue.



Chase



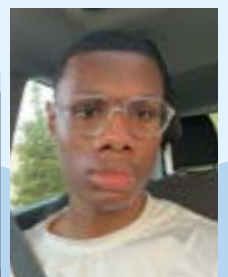
Guin

My specialty is in fiction and poetry (both longer and shorter pieces), but I'm open to working on any aspect of your storytelling!

I enjoy stories of fantasy and adventure. I like world building and complex characters, and can help you improve the clarity of your writing.

**Newsletter Team**  
2023

I like fantasy and science fiction stories that have action and deep lore. I can help explore power systems and further develop plot.



Jeremiah

# A Chat with Hopwood Award Winner Jina Bhagat

By Jacqueline Burant

Will YOU be the next Hopwood Award winner?



*Jina Bhagat*

If you want to stand alongside hundreds of prominent U of M writers and earn prize money for your work, you have until January. Submit to the [Hopwood Writing Contests!](#) The [Roy W. Cowden Memorial Fellowship](#) specifically is a great opportunity for UM-Flint undergrads. They accept multiple forms of writing, and one winner from each campus is guaranteed.

Jina Bhagat was the UM-Flint winner of the Roy W. Cowden Memorial Fellowship in 2023. I sat down with her to talk about her writing and her contest experience. Jina told me she started creative writing in high school and has loved it ever since. When I asked where she finds her inspiration, she shared that it's from the mundane, like daily interactions with people she meets. "It's the people you don't often look at, who often get neglected by the larger world," she added. These are the moments she gains ideas from and includes in her writing journal.

I asked what motivated her to submit her work to Ann Arbor's renowned Hopwood Writing Contests. She said she was weeks away from graduating when she heard about them. She'd never submitted to a contest before and didn't believe she'd win, but she scrambled to prepare a last-minute submission anyway. That entry was *Blue*, a poetry collection. Her leap of faith not only earned her prizes, but also boosted her confidence in her craft. She said "there's this real fear that it's not going to get selected, but don't let yourself back out. Just submit. See what happens. If it's your passion to write, then you have to put in the effort." Even if you don't win, Jina assured that it is still a valuable experience. You will get more comfortable sharing your work with others, and you will also gain experience preparing and submitting work.

Jina discussed that even with a busy course load, it is possible to balance academic work and writing. She finds it important to have break time in her schedule, and writing is a therapeutic way to spend it. If able, working ahead for classes can help clear up more free time for writing. If you're planning to enter the Hopwood Contests, Jina suggests starting early if possible. Researching contest criteria is a great place to start so you know what guidelines to keep in mind. Jina's story drives home that it's never too late to begin a submission. Even if you aren't confident you'll win, submit anyway! The results may surprise you.

Getting feedback from the Writing Center can help as well. Appointments can serve as soft deadlines to help spread out writing time before a piece is due. You can also gain valuable insights from seeing another perspective on your work.



**CREATIVE WRITING HUB**

Visit our [Creative Writing Hub](#) to stay updated on submission opportunities and learn more about our Writers' Circle!

**WRITING CENTER MISSION STATEMENT**

To be critical readers and listeners who provide helpful feedback to writers and speakers.

**THE MARIAN E. WRIGHT WRITING CENTER**

The Marian E. Wright Writing Center began in 1971 as a place to help students from all disciplines with academic and professional writing.

Our highly-trained tutors help students, faculty, and staff with their writing and speaking needs through in-person and online tutoring. We also support creative writers through tutoring, workshops, writing groups, contests, promotions, and more. Tutors love talking with writers about their work and publication goals. We welcome appointments for creative writing assignments, submission pieces, and personal projects. We can even provide feedback on larger pieces of writing.

Make an appointment with us today to get feedback on your work and ideas.

**MARIAN E. WRIGHT WRITING CENTER**

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