



**NIACC**  
*Diversity*  
COMMITTEE

# Diversity Writing Contest

**Show us your writing talent and help the North Iowa Diversity Appreciation Team (NIDAT) and NIACC Diversity Committee celebrate diversity.**

NIDAT and NIACC are seeking poems, short fiction, or non-fiction writing that express what diversity means to you. The writing should reflect diversity or multiculturalism in the community where all individuals are recognized, valued, and respected.

## **Prizes (1st \$100 • 2nd \$50 • 3rd \$25)**

will be awarded to first, second, and third place entries for each level: **K-5, 6-8, and 9-12.**

## **Awards**

All submissions will be gathered and shared in a video published on the NIDAT website, Facebook page, and the NIACC Community web page. You will be informed of the link to the publication in later announcements.

Prizes will be awarded for each level. We hope to recognize all participants as well as the award winners at a Virtual Reception for both written and visual arts contests. We will send you information and a link when they become available.

**If you have any questions, please email or call:**

**Mara Ouverson at [mara.ouverson@niacc.edu](mailto:mara.ouverson@niacc.edu)**

**641-422-4430 or**

**Diane Murphy at [demurphy76@gmail.com](mailto:demurphy76@gmail.com)**

**641-512-5851**

**Please leave a message if unanswered.**

## **Contest Rules**

- 1** Elementary school writers should limit their entries to 500 words; middle school writers should limit their entries to 750 words; high school writers should limit their entries to 1000 words.
- 2** Individual entries only will be accepted; no group work, please.
- 3** Please email your submission, double-spaced, or take a very clear digital photo of your neatly hand-written poem or prose.
- 4** Your first and last name, home address, phone number, school and grade must be identified on your submission or it will not be accepted.\*
- 5** You may enter only one submission to each contest (there is also a contest for visual artists).
- 6** Your submission must be emailed to [mara.ouverson@niacc.edu](mailto:mara.ouverson@niacc.edu) by **Tuesday, January 18**. Please note "Diversity Writing Contest Entry" in the email Subject line.
- 7** All entries will become the property of NIDAT.
- 8** The contest rubric is attached below on page 2 of this document.

**\* Your personal information will not be published or shared.  
This is for contest communication only.**

See last year's winner's here: <https://www.niacc.edu/community/north-iowa-diversity-appreciation-team/>

See our consumer information:  
[www.niacc.edu/about/consumer-information](http://www.niacc.edu/about/consumer-information)  
NIACC is an EEOC compliant institution.

## NIDAT Writing Contest Rubric

| Anchor Standard                               | 7  | 8  | 9-10   | Points |
|---|--|--|--|--------|
| <b>Production and Distribution of Writing</b> | <p>The paper has no clear sense of purpose of the central theme. The reader must make inferences based on sketchy or missing details.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Information is limited or unclear</li> <li>The writer has not begun to define the topic</li> <li>The topic may be repetitious, disconnected, and contains too many random thoughts.</li> </ul>  | <p>The writer is beginning to define the topic, even though development is still basic or general.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The topic is broad</li> <li>Support is attempted</li> <li>Ideas are reasonable clear</li> <li>The reader is left to questions</li> <li>The writer stays on topic</li> </ul>  | <p>This paper is clear and focused. It holds the reader's attention. Relevant anecdotes and details enrich the central theme.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The topic is narrow and manageable</li> <li>Relevant telling, quality details go beyond the obvious</li> <li>Ideas are crystal clear and supported with details</li> <li>Writing from knowledge or experience; ideas are fresh and original</li> </ul>  |        |
| <b>Text Types and Purposes</b>                | <p>The writing lacks a clear sense of direction.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No clear introduction or conclusion present</li> <li>Connections, if present, are confusing</li> <li>Sequencing needs work</li> <li>No title is present</li> <li>Problems with organizational structure make it hard for the reader to get a grip on the main point or story line. Little or no evidence of paragraphing present.</li> </ul> | <p>The organizational structure is strong enough to move the reader through the text without too much confusion.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The paper has a recognizable introduction and conclusion.</li> <li>Transitions sometimes work</li> <li>Sequencing shows some logic</li> <li>A title is present</li> <li>Organizational structure sometime supports the main point</li> </ul> | <p>The organizational structure of this paper enhances and showcases the central idea or theme of the paper; includes a catchy introduction and a satisfying conclusion.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>An introduction draws the reader in; a conclusion leaves the reader with a sense of closure and resolution.</li> <li>Thoughtful transitions connect ideas.</li> <li>Sequencing is logical and effective.</li> <li>The title is original</li> <li>Organizational structure is appropriate for purpose and audience</li> </ul> |        |
| <b>Craftsmanship &amp; Skill</b>              | <p>The writer seems uninvolved with the topic and the audience.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fails to connect with the audience.</li> <li>Purpose unclear</li> <li>Writing lacks development</li> </ul>  | <p>The writer seems sincere, but not fully engaged or involved.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Attempts to include content and arrangement of ideas to reflect purpose.</li> <li>Occasionally reveals personal details.</li> <li>Writing lacks consistent engagement with topic</li> </ul>   | <p>The writer of this paper speaks directly to the reader in a manner that is individual, compelling, engaging, and shows respect for the audience.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Uses topic, details, and language to strongly connect with the audience.</li> <li>Writer reveals details</li> <li>Writing reflects understanding and commitment to topic</li> </ul>   |        |