2024
Science Fiction and Fantasy
Writing Award

An annual writing contest for Tampa Bay high school students

Tampa Bay high school students are invited to submit original, unpublished short stories on the theme of "Alternate Florida."

Alternate history (n): A genre of fiction in which the author speculates on how the course of history might have been altered if a particular historical event had had a different outcome.

2024 contest themes:

What if...Spanish expeditions led by Pánfilo de Narváez, Hernando De Soto and others had led to peaceful settlement in La Florida among the Timucua, Apalachee and Calusa instead of conflict and conquest?

What if...instead of remaining loyal to England in 1776, Florida joined its fellow 13 English colonies in declaring independence?

What if...Osceola had not died in captivity in 1838 in St. Augustine?

What if...the Everglades had not been drained and developed, and panthers were as common as alligators?

What if...the four Nazi agents who landed on Ponte Vedra Beach on June 16, 1942 had not been captured by the FBI?

"ALTERNATE FLORIDA"

Entries accepted Jan. 1 – May 31, 2024
at **tampabay.com/nie/storycontest**

Entries will be judged by a panel of experts, including:

• Dell, Aurora and Sidewise Award-winning author and editor Eric Choi
• Author, editor and founder of the Sidewise Award for Alternate History Steven H Silver
• Sidewise Award-winning author, editor and professor Dr. Rick Wilber

The Grand Prize winner will receive:

• **$200 grand prize**
• Grand prize plaque
• Winning story published on the contest website

Runners-up will receive:

• **$25 prize**
• Award certificate

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Rules: Visit tampabay.com/nie/storycontest for more information, complete official rules and to enter. The contest is open to all students over the age of 13 in grades 9-12 in public, private and home schools in Citrus, Hernando, Hillsborough, Manatee, Pasco, Pinellas and Polk counties. Stories must be previously unpublished and unsold. There is no fee to enter, and no limit to the number of stories a student may submit.

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Find more information and an entry form at **tampabay.com/nie/storycontest**