TRIBAL COLLEGE
JOURNAL OF AMERICAN INDIAN HIGHER EDUCATION

TCJ Student **& TCJStudent.org**
2021 Creative Writing, Art, and Film Contest

DEADLINES

Creative Writing Contest: February 12, 2021
Cover Art Contest: March 26, 2021
Film Contest: March 26, 2021
Publication Date: August 23, 2021
Who: The contest is open to ALL tribal college students currently enrolled at an AIHEC-member institution

OVERVIEW

Each year, *Tribal College Journal* seeks exceptional creative writing, art, photography, and film by tribal college students for its student writing, art, and film contests. The top writing and art submissions are featured in both the fall print edition of *TCJ Student* and online at TCJStudent.org. Top film entries will be featured on TCJStudent.org. We encourage students to submit their best work (proofread and edited) for consideration. We prefer that instructors participate in the submission of their students' work so we can have a contact name and email address.

Publication in *TCJ Student* and at TCJStudent.org provides students with incentives, national exposure, and material for resumes. TCJ also awards prizes for the winning entries. Student winners have received netbooks, Kindle Fires, iPods, gift cards, certificates, and plaques. Additionally, a nationally recognized Indigenous writer serves as the guest editor for the writing contest, selecting the winners and introducing the issue. Past introductions of the student issue have been written by Kimberly Blaeser and Pulitzer Prize recipient N. Scott Momaday.

CONTEST CATEGORIES

Writing—TCJ's writing contest is organized into three categories: 1.) Fiction; 2.) Nonfiction; 3.) Poetry

Art—TCJ accepts virtually all two-dimensional art media, including painting, photography, weaving, and mixed media.

Film—TCJ accepts virtually all film styles, including documentary, experimental, and narrative (drama, comedy, etc.).

CONTEST RULES

All Contestants
- All students entering the contest must be registered at an AIHEC-affiliated tribal college.
- A student's name must NOT appear on the entry itself but rather on a separate cover sheet.
- Students must submit a short 100-word bio and an Official Entry Form with each entry.
- Students should submit a high resolution, headshot photograph.
- The deadline cannot be extended, and entries received after the deadline will not be considered. Since the winning entries appear within *Tribal College Journal* and/or at TCJStudent.org, we must adhere to our publishing schedule.
- Entries must not have been previously published or premiered, excepting those published on TCJStudent.org or premiered at the AIHEC student conference during the current academic year.
- Entries submitted to the TCJ writing, art, and film contest in past years will not be accepted.
- Entries not conforming to contest rules will be disqualified.

Writing

- Entries must be emailed as attachments in Microsoft Word. Use 12 point Times New Roman font only, double space entries, and include the writing category in the upper right corner of the first page.
- Maximum Length: 1,000 words (about four double-spaced pages). Entries over 1,000 words will not be considered.
- Entries containing passages in a Native language must be accompanied with an English translation and an appropriate Native language font when necessary.
- Only one entry will be accepted from each student per writing category.
- A separate TCJ Official Entry Form must accompany each entry.
- TCJ may edit submissions for space, style, or appropriateness.

Art/Photography

- Email attached high resolution images of your artwork. The image itself can be the art form (painting, drawing, or photograph) or it can be a photograph of a three-dimensional object, such as a sculpture. High resolution means we must have a jpeg attachment that is at least 300 dpi/ppi or that has a file size of at least 2 MB.
- Up to two entries will be accepted from each student.
- A separate TCJ Official Entry Form and a 100-word bio must accompany each entry.
- Students who have entered the AIHEC art contest may also enter the TCJ Student contest by checking the proper box on the official AIHEC art contest entry form.

Film

- Film entries must be submitted at TCJStudent.org, sent on DVD (standard U.S. format, DRA region code 1), or shared with the editor via YouTube or Vimeo. If you do upload your film on TCJStudent.org, you must first create an account and then click on the submit tab to submit your film. Be sure that the film is in one of the following formats: wmv, mp4, mov, or avi.
- Each film must be under 30 minutes in length with a maximum file size of 64 MB. If your film meets the time requirements, but is larger than 64 MB, please submit it on DVD via U.S. mail to: Editor, Tribal College Journal, 679 East 2nd Ave., Suite E-1, Durango, CO 81301.
- Crew members must have been enrolled at a tribal college during the filming and production of the film.
- All film entries must be accompanied by an Official Entry Form and 100-word bio, which should be emailed separately to: editor@tribalcollegejournal.org.
- The student who wins the contest must also submit a high resolution movie poster for his/her film and a high resolution headshot photo.
- Each student may submit up to two entries.
- Students who have entered the AIHEC film contest may also enter the TCJ Student contest by checking the proper box on the official AIHEC film contest entry form.

JUDGING CRITERIA

Writing

- The winning entries of the TCJ Student writing contest are selected by *TCJ Student*'s guest editor. Judging criteria may include, but are not necessarily limited to the following:
  o Presentation (appropriate format, adherence to contest rules, neatness, spelling, punctuation, grammar).
  o Suitability (correct content for category and appropriate length).
  o Tightness, clarity, structure, strength of lead/beginning, transitions, impact, satisfactory close.
- Other helpful hints for students:
  Nonfiction (Personal Narrative/Memoir): Text should exhibit compelling logic, have an effective order of ideas, and convey a provocative message. The lead and the closing should develop and reinforce the overall theme. Entries may be in a memoir or narrative style.
  Fiction (Short Story): The story should have entertaining and creative characters, meaningful conflict, well-drawn dialogue, effective plot, a strong beginning and ending, and well-developed figurative language and imagery.
  Poetry: The poem should explore a fresh and interesting concept, it may possess a provocative cadence or rhythmic beat, selectively use a variety of devices (such as figurative language) to appeal to the imagination or engage the reader's senses. If traditional verse is used, the poem should adhere to form.

Cover Art

- The image's attractiveness: Is the entry pleasing to the eye? Does it draw the viewer in? Is the entry well-presented?
- Skill and technique: Does the artist have a mastery over the entered media form?
- Meaning and representation: Does the artist convey a clear message and/or create a certain mood in the viewer? If purely representational, does the artist's work appeal to the senses?
- Uniqueness: Does the artist offer something new through his/her work?
- Suitability: Does the submitted image have a vertical orientation and would it make an attractive magazine cover.

Film

- Cinematography: Was the film visually compelling? Did the filmmaker have technical command of lighting and camera angles?
- Sound Design: Did the filmmaker have technical command over sound? Was it of high quality?
- Creativity/Originality: Was the work new and exciting? Was there imagination in the end product?
- Overall Production Quality: Was the film well-crafted? Was the film's editing good? Did it flow well? If special effects were used, were they of high quality?

<div align="center">**OFFICIAL ENTRY FORM**
2021 Tribal College Student Writing, Art, and Film Competition</div>

A separate form must accompany each entry (fiction, nonfiction, poem, artwork, or film).
Postmark deadline: February 12, 2021 (writing competition) or March 26, 2021 (artwork & film competitions)

1. Student's name: _____

Note how you want your name printed on Winners List/Certificate, if different from above:
_____

2. Student's mailing address: _____

_____

3. Student's phone number: _____

4. Email:_____

5. Student's tribal college: _____

6. TITLE of entry: _____

Page count (for writing entries):_____ Duration (for film entries): _____

7. FIRST LINE of entry (for writing entries):

_____

8. Circle Division/Category of this entry:

> **Fiction**
>
> **Nonfiction**
>
> **Poetry**
>
> **Artwork**
>
> **Film**

9. Attach a 100-word biographical statement (include your tribal college and major, any tribal affiliation, aspirations or interests, any credits to mentors, and information about your interest in writing/art/film). If your entry is selected, we will request your photo.

10. Name of Writing/English/Art/Film/Other Instructor (who has reviewed the entry): _____

11. Instructor's telephone number: _____ and email address:_____

12. Student Consent and Warranty:

If your work is selected as a winner or an honorable mention, *Tribal College Journal* reserves the right to edit for grammar, spelling, possible word replacement or reformatting, if necessary. We also reserve the right to restructure or delete some sections of text for readability or to preserve internal consistency of narrative. If your entry requires substantial changes, our copy editor will contact you directly for suggested changes. As our call for entry indicated, each entry is limited to a 1,000-word count maximum.

By submitting your artwork, writing, and/or film, you acknowledge *Tribal College Journal*'s right to use all customary means to publish and distribute the work, including not only within the TCJ magazine and website but also through various on-line services, digital editions, social networking sites, e-books, published book compilations, and mobile digital applications.

By typing his or her name below, the student certifies that this writing/artwork/film is original and that the author/artist/filmmaker has the authority to make this agreement. The student also certifies that the writing/artwork/film does not infringe upon any copyright or contain any libelous or unlawful matter.

_____

Student's Signature   Date

13. Send entry form with entry by email to: editor@tribalcollegejournal.org.