



THE 35th ANNUAL TOM KEATING WRITING CONTEST

**NOVEMBER 12-13, 2021
INDIANAPOLIS**

GENERAL DESCRIPTION

The Indianapolis Press Club established this annual contest in 1986 as a tribute to former *Indianapolis Star* columnist Thomas R. Keating. The competition celebrates great storytelling across multiple genres. Students are encouraged to submit their best published writing – news, features, sports or columns – to be considered for 10 spots in the competition, which is Nov. 12-13 in Indianapolis.

A total of \$7,000 in cash prizes are handed out. The top winner receives \$3,000. Since its inception, the program has awarded roughly \$170,000.

We plan to hold the competition in person this year. **To ensure everyone's safety during the ongoing pandemic, students will be required to:**

- Show proof of vaccination upon arrival for the competition.
- Wear masks at all times around other people, except when eating.
- Sign a waiver upon arrival. (A copy will be provided to read in advance)

SELECTION OF PARTICIPANTS

A panel of professional journalists will select up to 10 finalists from the initial entrant pool. Deadline for entries is Sunday, Oct. 3 at 11:59 p.m. EST. Emailed entries should be time-stamped accordingly.

Applicants must be full-time students, pursuing an undergraduate degree at an accredited Indiana college or university. All finalists will be notified by mid-October at the latest and will receive at least a \$100 prize the weekend of the competition.

SUMMARY OF PROGRAM

The program takes place on Friday and Saturday, Nov. 12-13 in Indianapolis. Finalists are provided accommodations Friday night and meals during the contest.

Friday evening includes a dinner reception and a private coaching session with a local professional. This year, some of the coaching sessions may be done by Zoom.

After Saturday breakfast at the hotel, all finalists participate in the “On-Site Writing Challenge.” During a five-hour time frame, finalists report and develop a feature story at a designated location in Indianapolis. Students write their stories on deadline in a downtown newsroom or in a common room at the Hampton Inn.

At the Indianapolis Press Club Foundation's Annual Dinner on Nov. 13 at The Skyline Club, the top three prize winners are announced.

AWARDS

The first-place winner is awarded \$3,000; second place, \$1,750; and third place, \$1,250.

ENTRY INFORMATION

Students should submit **two entries** by email to keating.entry@yahoo.com and the subject line should read: **contestant's last name – contest entry**.

Deadline for entries is Sunday, Oct. 3 at 11:59 p.m. EST. Emailed entries should be timestamped accordingly. When considering what to enter, please keep in mind this is a writing competition and we are looking for **well-written** stories. Also, please submit **two stories**. We have had to disqualify past students because only one story was submitted.

Please make sure you receive an automatic response, confirming that your entry was received. If you do NOT receive an automatic response, your entry was not received or was received past the 11:59 p.m. deadline.

Applications should include:

- **Two** well-written stories (news, features, sports or columns) that were published during your tenure at your college or university. The stories can be published by a student-run paper or by another media outlet in or out of state. Stories should be no more than 1,500 words each. These may be submitted as text files (i.e. Microsoft Word documents) or as PDFs. **Please make sure your name is on each submitted story** and that the entry is in at least **9-point font** when printed on an 8½ by 11-inch paper. When attaching your two stories to the email, they should be labeled accordingly: **contestant's last name – Story #1 and contestant's last name – Story #2**.
- A brief biographical statement, written in third person that is suitable for a media release. This should include place of birth or hometown, major/minor areas of study and expected graduation year in 150 words or less. The top of this statement should include personal contact information including email, school, home mailing address, telephone and cell phone numbers and Twitter handle if you have one. When this file is attached, it should be labeled **contestant's last name – bio**

Deadline for receipt of entries is Sunday, Oct. 3 at 11:59 p.m. EST.

Additional details are available at: www.indypressfoundation.org

QUESTIONS

Submit by email to: jlabalme.indypress@att.net