



The First Chapters Writing Contest

Rules and Guidelines

Welcome to the First Chapters Writing Contest! This competition is an annual writing contest where readers of The Novel Smithy submit the first chapter of their manuscripts for a chance to win feedback from a professional editor.

Here's what you can expect from this competition:

- To enter, fill out the survey available on the contest page. This is where you'll submit the first chapter of your manuscript (up to 5,000 words) as either a PDF or .docx file.
- Submissions will be open for two weeks, typically in early December.
- The winners will be announced via email and on the contest page. They'll have two days to confirm their win, or their prize will be passed to the next runner up.
- The first place winner will receive free enrollment in The Novel Smithy's developmental editing programs. The second and third place winners will both get a critique of their submission and a one hour follow-up call to discuss their feedback.

By submitting an entry you're agreeing to all of the rules and conditions below:

- You must be 18 years or older to participate.
- Your submission must be from a currently unpublished work.
- By submitting, you're agreeing to be added to The Novel Smithy's newsletter for the purpose of contacting you about contest results and sending you updates from the site. We never sell emails or spam our users.
- By submitting, you agree to let The Novel Smithy post and share your submission and name in full, both on <https://thenovelsmithy.com/> and elsewhere. You retain all copyright, but give The Novel Smithy full permission to use it as a sample in any form.
- None of the available prizes can be exchanged for cash. If you win first place and wish to defer your coaching session to a later date, we will accommodate you within reason.
- All decisions made by the judges regarding the winners are final.
- Contest rules are subject to change without notice.