

MWA Novel Contest

One-page Synopsis Guidelines

A synopsis is a short version of your entire manuscript. It provides a thematic overview by introducing your characters and explaining the plot/resolution in a logical, chronological order. It should be written in third person, present tense, using the same voice / writing style as your novel.

It should illustrate the struggle, offering specific examples of the protagonist's efforts and the antagonist's counter-measures, and describe the tension or suspense which exists between the characters.

Your synopsis should provide concise biographical information on the principal characters. What role do they play, protagonist, antagonist...? Where/when does the story take place? What is the story goal / objective? What is the plot's conflict? Who has what at risk?

If there are sub-plots, only the primary one should be explained, and how it contributes to the novel by enhancing either/both the plot and/or character development.

It should describe the final crisis and how the protagonist succeeds/fails in accomplishing his/her story goal. What is the state of his/her universe after the climax? Does (s)he resolve to change or not change as a result?

For the Maryland Writers' Association's annual novel contest, center the title of your novel at the top of the page. Below that, center the word "Synopsis." DO NOT put the author's name anywhere in the synopsis. Do not include word / page count or genre information. That information is placed elsewhere in the submission.