

MEDIA RELEASE

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NIC Asks: Can You Write Under Pressure?

Win a free English course in NIC's 6th Annual Three-Hour Fiction Writing Contest

Join NIC Sunday, December 11 for the 6th Annual Three-Hour Fiction Writing Contest, a literary competition designed to see what you can write in three short hours.

The contest takes place at NIC's Comox Valley campus, in Tye Hall, Room 114, starting at 1 pm. Everyone is welcome.

"It's amazing what can happen when you lock people in a room and ask them to write their way out," says NIC English Instructor, Steve Schoenhoff.

The contest winner receives free admission to NIC's [English 209: Creative Writing: Fiction](#) course. The [Island Word](#) newspaper will publish the story.

"At 1 pm the doors close and writers will be given elements that must appear in the story," said Schoenhoff. "It might be a psychological problem deep in the heart of the protagonist, or a conflict over control of a useless piece of furniture."

Schoenhoff brought the competition to the Comox Valley six years ago, after hearing about Vancouver's notorious three-day novel contest.

"There were over 40 entries in NIC's very first contest," Schoenhoff said. "The quality of work has been great every year."

Writers craft their story in NIC's computer lab and print their work at the end of the three hours. A panel of NIC faculty will judge the stories based on readability, creativity and the degree to which they weave the required elements into the story.

"Writing a story in three hours can be an inspiring dilemma for people," Schoenhoff said. "I wanted to give short story writers an opportunity to show what they can do under pressure."

Registration is by donation to the NIC Foundation. Proceeds support creative writing students through the Stephen Schoenhoff Creative Writing Scholarship.

NIC offers a wide range of English courses from upgrading, creative writing and business writing courses through to academic writing and university studies. To find out more about NIC's programs and courses visit www.nic.bc.ca.

For contest information or to register, please contact Steve at 250-334-5094 or stephen.schoenhoff@nic.bc.ca by 4:30 pm, December 10, 2016. Latecomers will be accommodated as space permits.

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NIC English Instructor, Steve Schoenhoff invites local writers to join him for NIC's 6th Annual Three-Hour Fiction Writing Contest taking place Sunday, December 11, 2016, 1-4 pm at NIC's Comox Valley campus. Registration is by donation to the NIC Foundation.