



BETWEEN THE LINES WRITING CONTEST

What is the BTL writing contest?

Between the Lines invites young aspiring writers from Arabic speaking countries in the Middle East and North Africa between the ages of 16-19 to the University of Iowa to spend two weeks honing their creative writing skills and interacting with American students of the same age range. The international students will be accompanied by adult chaperones. The summer session of Between the Lines (BTL) will take place July 11-26, 2010. More information about this program can be found here: <http://iwp.uiowa.edu/projects/BTL/index.html>

Who can apply?

Students:

- Students must be between the ages of 16 and 19 as of July 11, 2010 and proficient in English (reading, writing, and speaking). The ideal candidate should be able to:
 - Demonstrate an interest in and ability to write creatively (prose and/or poetry)
 - Fully engage their imaginations in a variety of class settings
 - Confidently work alongside other BTL students in Arabic-language classes as well as American students in English-language classes

Each student applicant must provide a 10-15 page writing sample (which can be in English, Arabic, or both) and a one-paragraph statement of purpose describing why he or she would like to participate in the BTL program.

Chaperones:

- Chaperones must be between the ages of 21 and 40 as of July 11, 2010 and proficient in English (reading, writing, and speaking). The ideal candidate should:
 - Aspire to a literary career and/or a teaching career involving creative writing and literature.

- Be willing to assist BTL faculty and IWP staff with projects related to promoting creative writing and the teaching of creative writing in the Middle East
- Be able to benefit from attending a week-long Iowa Summer Writing Festival class of their choice (presented at the University of Iowa)
- Demonstrate experience working with young people, particularly teens
- Be able to serve as liaison between the BTL students and English-speaking students and staff at the University of Iowa

Each chaperone applicant must provide a resume/CV and a brief statement of purpose describing what they hope to achieve by attending BTL, as well as how their participation can benefit the program.

How do I apply?

- Deadline to submit the writing is *March 23rd, 2010*
- Can be hand-delivered or submitted electronically to Ibtissem Amarouayeche at AmarouayecheI@state.gov.

Finalists:

- Will be invited to an interview at the embassy.
- Must bring a copy of their writing sample to the interview.
- Must have a passport valid 6 months at least 6 months after the program ends.