

## University of Maryland Writing Competition (February 7, 2017)

**Do you love to write? Do you want a chance to have your work heard by thousands across the nation and globe?**

The University of Maryland Communications and Marketing department is holding a writing competition. The competition is open to any current Maryland student. The winning written piece will be used as narration for an upcoming University of Maryland video that will be distributed to vast network of alumni, students and staff via email and UMD's social media channels (Facebook and Twitter), as well as live on UMD's YouTube channel (<https://www.youtube.com/user/UMD2101>).

The video will depict the journey of a college student from arriving on campus as a freshman to leaving as a graduating senior. More specifically, it must convey the notion of personal growth during a student's college experience: the anxiety of being a small fish in a large pond, the excitement of meeting new friends, being homesick, gaining the support of faculty/mentors, forming new ideas, the pain of a break-up, the struggle to succeed, the power of a growing self-confidence, and the fearlessness to chase a dream. The storyline can include classroom-oriented examples like coursework and tests, but it doesn't need to be the focus. The overarching theme is opportunity, setting aside fears, overcoming challenges and personal growth.

You have the freedom to write in the style of your choice (ex. narrative, poem). Be creative. Write from the heart of a UMD student. Write about your experiences or what you wish to experience. Make it beautiful, compelling, uplifting and inspiring!

The audience is prospective students.

Must haves:

- Make it Disney friendly. No swearing, vulgarities.
- 45-90 seconds in length when read aloud.
- It must capture the audience's attention, hold it and make them feel good at the end.
- It can't be so abstract or slang heavy that a general audience can't relate or comprehend hidden meanings.

Inspiration (this is the "feeling" we're going for):

*The Snail* - <https://vimeo.com/175377457>.

*The Gold Within* - <https://vimeo.com/177335310>

*Airbnb* - <https://vimeo.com/192676007>

**Send writing samples to Mark Sherwood ([Sherwood@umd.edu](mailto:Sherwood@umd.edu)) by March 1, 2017 for best consideration.**