



# Worldbuilding Workshop



Grab a  
snack!



Get  
nametag &  
packets!

ISU Worldbuilding Competition 2024  
Dr. John Monroe | Kelli Fitzpatrick



# Welcome!

- Speaker Introductions
  - Dr. John Monroe
  - Kelli Fitzpatrick
- Attendee Introductions
  - Name
  - Have a team? Looking for a team?
  - What you are hoping to get out of the workshop

# What we will cover today

- Opening remarks about the competition
- Where to find information
- How to find a team and register
- Requirements for materials
- Deadlines and how to submit
- Prizes and Awards Ceremony
- Process Tips & Getting help
- Open Q & A





# Opening Remarks

- What is the idea behind the competition? (A.I., gaming, research, humanities...)
- What might you learn?
- Have FUN!

# Where to find information

- All information is on the Competition website:  
<https://engl.iastate.edu/2023/12/04/worldbuilding-competition/>
- Or Google “ISU Worldbuilding”
- QR code for Website:



# How to find a team

- To find a team, join our Discord!
- Be respectful in the server!
- Discord invite: <https://discord.gg/rZJ8hQA7>
- QR code for invite:





# Team Eligibility

- Teams must have 2-5 people (no solo entries)
- All members must be currently enrolled undergraduate students at Iowa State University
- Teams must REGISTER on the website

# How to register

- Go to the competition website:  
<https://engl.iastate.edu/2023/12/04/worldbuilding-competition/>
- Scroll down and find the big blue button that says “Register a Team.”
- Fill out the form. It will ask for your team names, ISU emails, year in college, and major.





# Requirements for Submission

**The Prompt:** Imagine a future that includes A.I. (artificial intelligence). Your “world” that you describe should be an interesting possible setting for a game (table-top role-playing game, video game, whatever).

Your final submission will include four parts:

1. Reflection
2. World Description
3. Annotated Bibliography
4. Character Roles & Story Hooks

Your best resources for these are the **INSTRUCTION PACKET** and the **EXAMPLE PACKET**, both available on the website.

# PART 1: Reflection

- This document gives an overview of your world and process, kind of like a cover page.
- Should be in three parts:
  - “What We Did”
  - “How We Did It”
  - “Lessons Learned”
- Maximum 500 words, minimum 250. Worth 10% of score.

Note: You will probably write this *last* but it will go *first* in your submission file (to give the judges an overview of your world).

# Reflection Rubric

Reflection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● <b>What They Did:</b> Does this section give a clear description of the key elements of the world?</li><li>● <b>How They Did It:</b> Does this section clearly describe the group's process for creating their world?</li><li>● <b>Lessons Learned:</b> Is there evidence of reflection on the process (what went well, what they would do differently, etc.)?</li></ul>	_____/10
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## PART 2: World Description

- This is the centerpiece of your submission, the description of your world and how it has been shaped by A.I. (artificial intelligence).
- You want to carefully think through how the A.I. *influences* these other areas of society. What are the *impacts* of introducing this tech?
- Maximum 3,500 words, minimum 1,500. Worth 40% of score.



## PART 2: World Description

The World Description should be divided into four sections:

- **Technology:** A description of the A.I. technology that will shape your future (what is it, how did it come about, how does it work or how do people use it)
- Followed by three sections describing the **impact** of the technology in three areas:
  - **Politics:** Who has governing power? How do they exercise it?
  - **Culture/Religion/Intellectual Life:** How do people understand or explain their world?
  - **Economy/Environment/Society:** How do people make and distribute stuff?

# World Description Rubric

World Description	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● <b>Incorporation of Issues Related to A.I.:</b> Does the world description imagine a future shaped by Artificial Intelligence?</li><li>● <b>Required Sections:</b> How thoroughly and creatively does the description flesh out the following categories:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Technology</li><li>○ Political Impacts</li><li>○ Cultural, Religious, and Intellectual Impacts</li><li>○ Social, Economic, and Environmental Impacts</li></ul></li><li>● <b>Originality:</b> How new and fresh and interesting are the ideas?</li><li>● <b>Coherence:</b> How well do the different aspects of the world interconnect and make sense?</li></ul>	<hr style="width: 100%; margin-bottom: 5px;"/> <p style="text-align: right;">/40</p>
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## PART 3: Annotated Bibliography

- This is where you show your research and how you used it.
- The annotated bibliography consists of **sources** and **annotations**.
  - **Sources.** Each source entry should be properly cited (you can use MLA, APA, or CMS, just be consistent throughout the document). You should have a variety of sources, some scholarly.
  - **Annotations.** Below each source, summarize the main idea of the text, explain what concepts inspired you and how you are drawing upon them in your world.
- Maximum 2,500 words, minimum 750. Worth 30% of score.

# Annotated Bibliography Rubric

Annotated Bibliography	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● <b>Correct citation:</b> Are the entries fully and consistently cited in a recognized citation style? (MLA, APA, CMS, etc.)?</li><li>● <b>Variety of sources:</b> Are the sources drawn from a variety of disciplines in the arts and humanities, including at least some scholarly sources?</li><li>● <b>Effectiveness of Summary:</b> To what extent does each annotation show a grasp of the text as a whole?</li><li>● <b>Depth of Analysis and Application:</b> How well do the students explain what concepts or insights they drew from each text and how they used them in their world?</li></ul>	_____/30
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## PART 4: Character Roles & Story Hooks

- This piece lets you imagine some types or groups of people that might exist in your world, as well as come up with some story hooks. It is meant to showcase how well your world works **as a game setting**.
- **Character roles.** What new roles does your world open up that would be fun to play as a player? What groups might shine in this environment? Name and briefly describe 3-5 roles.
- **Story hooks.** What kinds of problems might arise in this world that players would enjoy solving? What kinds of conflicts or adventures might you tease? Give us 3-5 hooks that might launch a game.
- Maximum 1,500 words. Worth 10% of score.
- Strongly recommend looking at the example packet.

# Character Roles & Story Hooks Rubric

Story Hooks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● <b>Character Roles:</b> Is there a list of 3-5 character roles, are they creative, and are they borne logically out of the world?</li><li>● <b>Story Hooks:</b> Do they have 3-5 story hooks that make good use of the possibilities of the world for game scenarios?</li></ul>	_____/10
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# Quality of Writing Rubric

Quality of Writing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Clarity, spelling, punctuation, grammar, sentence fluency, style, and tone are suited to the purpose across all pieces.</li></ul>	_____/10
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# File Formatting Requirements

- Place all four components in ONE file in the right order.
- Start each new component on a new page.
- Use Times New Roman 12 point font throughout.
- TITLE your submission.
- Use section headings (see example packet).
- Place page numbers in the footer.
- Do NOT put your names anywhere in the document.
- Direct formatting questions to Kelli: [kfitzpat@iastate.edu](mailto:kfitzpat@iastate.edu) or use the “ask for help” channel in Discord.



# Other Competition Rules

- Entries must be your own **original work**.
- A.I. tools/chatbots may be used for ideas and inspiration but **cannot be used to generate the text** of the entry itself.
- Brief quotations from other texts are acceptable if in **quotation marks and cited**.
- **Incomplete entries** will be disqualified.



# Process Tips

1. Begin with brainstorming to create lists of possible ideas
2. Use those ideas to guide some research reading for inspiration
3. Strengthen and develop those lists based on what you've read
4. *Then* write up your World Description!

Other tips:

- Divide and conquer (leverage your team)
- Timing (don't wait till the last minute!)

# Deadlines

- **Registration:** Register early, as soon as you have your team together. This helps us plan for judging.
- **Submission:** Submit Materials by Monday, April 1, 2024 by 11:59 p.m.

*NO LATE ENTRIES WILL BE ACCEPTED!*

If you have any issues with registration or materials submission, contact Kelli at [kfitzpat@iastate.edu](mailto:kfitzpat@iastate.edu) (Not three minutes before the deadline!)

# How to submit materials

- Go to the competition website:  
<https://engl.iastate.edu/2023/12/04/worldbuilding-competition/>
- Scroll down and find the red text that says “Submit materials here.”
- Fill out the form.

- Research, create, imagine, write with your I
- Deadline to submit team portfolio: April 1, 2
- Winners announced at the Awards Ceremc

**Submit materials here.**

**EMAIL LIST:** Want to stay up to date with competi

**QUESTIONS:** Email John Monroe [jmonroe@ias](mailto:jmonroe@ias)

Instructors: Please feel free to notify your studen



# How to submit materials, continued

The submission form will ask you for:

- **Names and emails.** These should match what you entered when you registered. If you need to make a change, email Kelli at [kfitzpat@iastate.edu](mailto:kfitzpat@iastate.edu) BEFORE submitting.
- **Title of submission.** Come up with a unique title for your world/submission. This should match your file name.
- **File.** Submit a single PDF or Word file that includes all four pieces in the right order. Do **NOT** put your names in the document.
- **Originality.** You certify your submission is your own original work.
- **Live critique opt in/out.** Do you want your submission to be considered for a live critique during the awards ceremony?

# Prizes & Awards Ceremony

## PRIZES:

- 1st Prize: \$750
- 2nd Prize: \$250

## AWARDS CEREMONY

Winners will be announced at an award ceremony in April. All participants are encouraged to attend. The event will include a keynote address and live critique session from guest judge Dallas Dickinson of Crystal Dynamics who has worked on *Tomb Raider*.

Tentative ceremony date and time (Save the Date): **Saturday, April 20, 1:00-4:00 p.m.**

*Note: Date is not confirmed and may be subject to change. All those who submit materials will be emailed with final ceremony details. It will also be posted on the website.*

# How to get help from us

## EMAIL:

- Dr. Monroe: [jmonroe@iastate.edu](mailto:jmonroe@iastate.edu)
- Kelli: [kfitzpat@iastate.edu](mailto:kfitzpat@iastate.edu)

## IN-PERSON:

- Dr. Monroe, office hours Mondays 1:00-3:00pm Ross 641(or by appointment)

## DISCORD:

- Kelli is available on our Discord server to answer questions
- Channels for finding a team, getting help, and general
- Discord invite: <https://discord.gg/rZJ8hQA7>



# Q & A

What questions do you have?



# Thank you!

*If you have any questions during the process, please email us!*

Dr. John Monroe [jmonroe@iastate.edu](mailto:jmonroe@iastate.edu)

Kelli Fitzpatrick [kfitzpat@iastate.edu](mailto:kfitzpat@iastate.edu)

Tell a friend about the competition!



Website  
Link



Discord  
Invite