The experiences of ordinary individuals in the Civil War still resonate with us today. The Kentucky Historical Society (KHS) and Kentucky Humanities invite undergraduates to tell this story. We’re looking for short stories that creatively address the experiences of ordinary individuals as they struggled to cope with the unprecedented societal chaos brought on by a nation in conflict.

KHS’s freely accessible Civil War Governors of Kentucky (CWGK) collections, includes thousands of published historical documents relaying the lives of Kentuckians during the Civil War. Using any of the documents found here as your inspiration, craft your own story. Submissions will be judged on their originality, creative expression and adherence to the following guidelines:

- Entrants must be currently enrolled undergraduate students.
- Entries should be no more than 5,000 words total (excluding title page). Entries must include a separate title page with the title of the story and the full name of the author. The author name must not appear anywhere other than the title page.
- Only one entry per person will be accepted, and only single-author stories qualify.
- Previously published stories are not eligible.
- Entries must be inspired by document(s) from the CWGK database and reference at least one applicable document by accession number on the entry form: Accession numbers can be found at the end of a URL: discovery.civilwargovernors.org/document/KYR-XXXX-XXX-XXXX
- Characters in the story can be invented or derived from the document(s) selected.
- Submitted files should be a PDF or Word document. Stories should be typed, using 12 pt. font, numbered pages, and 1-inch margins.

Need help getting started? Explore these documents!

Entries must be submitted via this Google form by July 31, 2020.

The first place story will receive a cash prize provided by the Kentucky Humanities and an opportunity to appear on “Think Humanities,” a Kentucky Humanities podcast hosted by Bill Goodman.