



Playwrights for Change

“Widening Our Circle of Compassion”

AATE’s (Adult) Member Playwright Writing Competition

Theme: “Widening Our Circle of Compassion”

- When we first consider compassion, it often extends to our family and close friends. But what happens when we broaden that view, recognizing our deep interconnectedness to all people and choose to act kindly not only toward those who we perceive are different from us, but toward individuals we view as adversaries and even the natural world? The true challenge is to practice empathy in these wider, more difficult spaces.

Eligibility

- **Must be a current member of AATE** in good standing over the age of 18 years.
 - Must submit all materials by **11:59PM (EDT) Wednesday, April 1, 2026**.
 - Eligible original 10-minute plays must be appropriate and written for a young audience.
 - See “submission rules” below for more details.
- Note: Become a member of AATE today and join a vibrant community of theatre educators across disciplines. Signing up is easy and Tiered Pricing and Scholarships are available. <https://www.aate.com/membership>

Submission Rules

1. Plays by BIPOC playwrights are highly sought and BIPOC playwrights are particularly encouraged to submit.
2. Adult Playwrights will be able to submit only one (1) original 10-minute play they’ve written (no co-writer) that is **specifically relevant to the theme “Widening Our Circle of Compassion.”**
3. Completed scripts must be **no longer than 10 minutes when read aloud**. (Playwrights who submit manuscripts longer than 10 minutes will be disqualified.)
4. The playwright’s name and contact information must not appear in the manuscript to ensure a blind reading.
5. The script must be able to be read by an ensemble of no more than 6 actors.
6. The script must be unpublished at the time of submission to the competition and not under contract.
7. The script should have no more than one fully staged production and must be open to further development. Multiple prior staged readings are allowable.
8. All submissions must include the Participant and Play Info Form.
9. Supporting materials (reviews, publicity, etc.) should not accompany the submission.
10. Please **create a pdf file** of your play.
11. Manuscripts must be submitted electronically to (Alexis Truitt) alexis@aate.com as a pdf file email attachment.
12. All submissions will be acknowledged by email.
13. Scripts must be received electronically **11:59PM (EDT) Wednesday, April 1, 2026**. All submissions must be sent by email. Late submissions will not be accepted.
14. Submissions not adhering to the official guidelines will be deemed ineligible.