“THAT TIME I KNEW I BELONGED” is a writing competition sponsored by The Alliance of Idaho and Sun Valley Museum of Art (SVMoA). The competition is open to high school juniors and seniors who attend Blaine County public schools. Submissions can be written in English or Spanish.

The Alliance and SVMoA invite students to respond to the prompt, “THAT TIME I KNEW I BELONGED...” We will be looking for personal, autobiographical stories that directly address the prompt and reveal something about what makes a community work—and about the moments when it doesn’t. What does it mean to belong? Where do you feel at home? When do you feel connected?

We are looking for originality, quality of writing, humor, and emotional resonance. We encourage students who might be the first in their family to attend college to participate.

The Alliance and SVMoA have a shared interest in building and celebrating communities in their different forms—from what happens on the soccer field, to the dinner table, to the classroom, to a dance class, to a walk in the woods, to the pages of a book. The writing competition is designed to recognize and honor the various ways people belong. Together, we understand that diverse communities are stronger when everyone can flourish.

Winners will be awarded a gift card to the independent or university bookstore of their choice to help students purchase books for college or technical school, or to support a love of reading. Two first-place winners will receive $500 gift certificates; two winners will receive $250 gift certificates; two winners will receive $100 gift certificates.

Winners will be invited to share their essays in a public presentation at SVMoA, Hailey, MAY 4, 2023.

TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE WRITING COMPETITION AND TO SUBMIT YOUR ESSAY, PLEASE VISIT: 
svmoa.org/learn/writing-competition