Sample Questions

a) Land-locked states are often referred to with terms like the backwaters and flyover states. Is this kind of outside sentiment an influence over (or reflected in) your work? If so, how do you engage with or push back against it?

b) Along these lines, how is the political reality of living in a red state like Nebraska reflected in your work? How do you project yourself into political debates through your writing? Or how do you avoid them?

c) What kinds of stories and poems from Nebraska interest you the most? Do you have a favorite “Nebraska” book, poem, or story? How do you engage with this tradition that you have identified?

d) What Nebraska stories (or characters) do you feel are currently the most neglected?

e) Like many states, the laws in Nebraska are becoming increasingly hostile to its residents—particularly those who are LGBTQ+, people of color, and women seeking bodily autonomy. Do you feel like the writing and arts scene in Nebraska is more welcoming than the state in general?

f) In what ways is Nebraska a nurturing place for writers? What would you like to see evolve in the region in the near future; whether that’s opportunities for writers, or stories that need to be told, or formal innovation that would help tell these stories better?

e) Why Nebraska? What is it about this place that makes it a compelling stage for writing?