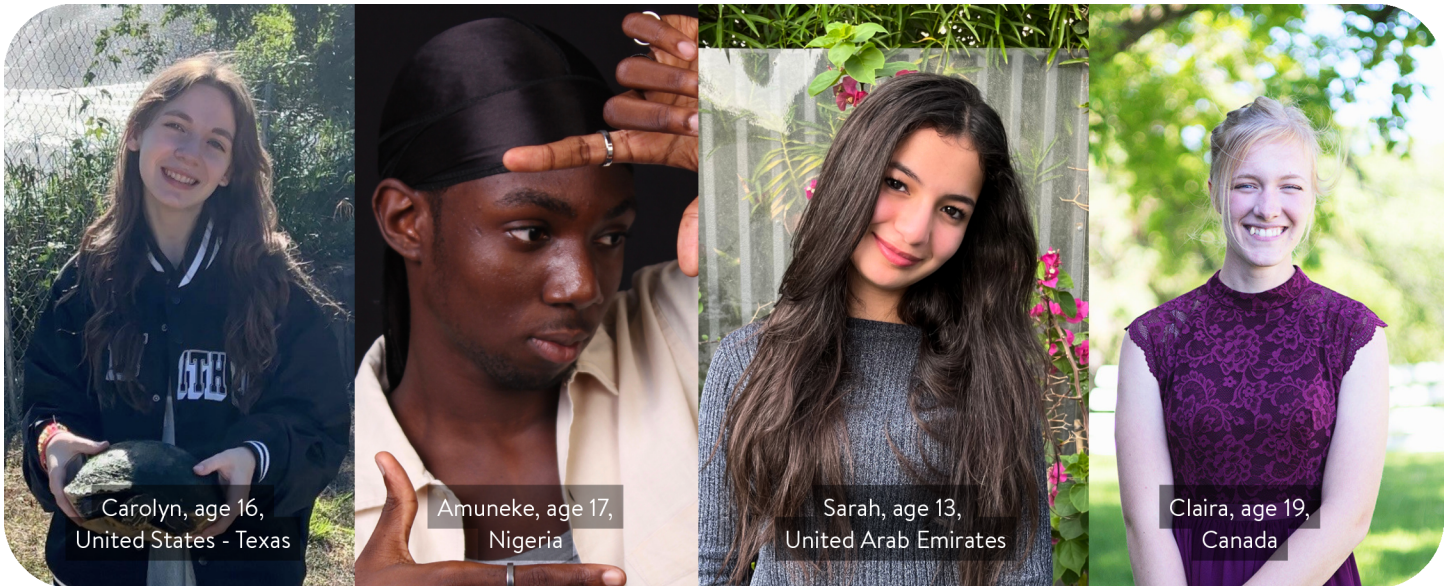


Inspiring teenagers to change the world,
one word at a time.



2025 Impact Report



Write the World is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit dedicated to equipping teenagers with the confidence and competence to change the world, one word at a time.

Letter from the Founder & CEO

Dear Friends and Supporters,

Elizabella, a high school junior, stared at the blank page and was scared. “I felt so much pressure,” she said, knowing the words she typed for her college essay would define her future. Elizabella needed the confidence to believe that her story was worth telling- and she had the tools to tell it. Through Write the World’s College Essay Program, Elizabella grew that confidence and discovered that writing can unlock a lifetime of opportunity. She was accepted to the University of South Florida - proof that when young people find their voice, it carries them further than they imagined.

In 2025, we helped nearly 500 students like Elizabella confront the blank page and realize their college dreams. We focused our work in communities like Lowell, Massachusetts, where many students are aspiring first-generation college students and our 99% enrollment rate demonstrates the program’s impact. But a young writer’s journey begins long before their college application. That’s why Write the World

programs support youth in developing their voice, ideas, and leadership over the entire course of their teen years, in a variety of writing programs: daily prompts, monthly competitions, peer reviews, and summer workshops - all designed to foster empathy, reflection, and connection.

In a year marked by education funding cuts and stagnant teen literacy rates, Write the World continued to grow its global community of belonging, where students help each other to become better writers. In 2025, young writers collaborated with peers across borders, cultures, and politics over 640,000 times. Students wrote 18 million words in 56,000 unique pieces, and 18,000 new members joined, the most ever.

We’re also a reading community. In 2025, teens read - and often reviewed - over 500,000 pieces written by peers. Our weeklong writing workshops in July and August helped students avoid “summer melt” and hone skills in genres like storytelling, poetry, and science fiction.

“Write the World shaped my story by providing a platform to practice a skill (writing) I didn't pay much attention to initially, but now love.”

**- Ace, age 17, India
Runner up, People's Choice Award 2025**

Writing about issues that matter within a diverse community is an essential skill. Monthly writing competitions are an exciting gateway for new members to enter our community. In 2025, over 11,000 teens entered competitions on topics like climate change and the rule of law, supported by sponsors like Patagonia and the Supreme Court Historical Society. Writing is the means whereby young writers learn to advocate for their ideas and envision the world they want to live in.

In 2025, AI writing quickly moved from novelty to norm. But by outsourcing the critical thinking at the heart of learning, students risk becoming intellectual couch potatoes instead of building skills that will enable them to thrive in the future. With many AI tools, students can avoid the exercise of wrestling to develop original ideas and supporting their arguments through research and revision. In response, we launched Clara, a Socratic method AI writing tool that will never write or think for students. Instead, Clara asks questions that stimulate students' critical thinking. In over 10,000 interactions with Clara,

students consistently reported increased self-confidence because they did the thinking themselves.

We also piloted an enhanced version of Clara for college writing programs, with a robust suite of tools for faculty. Looking ahead to 2026, we see potential to extend Clara AI to higher education students and their faculty.

Our work depends upon an extraordinary team of over 80 educators, writers, technologists, moderators, guest judges, and volunteers. Based in Cambridge, Massachusetts, our team spans the globe, with dedicated volunteers in 5 continents.

Young writers have the potential to change the world - and they need us to believe their voices are worth investing in. This impact report is a call to action. It shows that change is possible, that writing matters, creates opportunities, and sparks real-world action. Please join me in supporting our young writers to tell all the stories yet to come.

With gratitude,

David Weinstein
Founder & CEO
Write the World, Inc.



By the Numbers



140k+

Teens & Educators

300k+

Pieces Published

125+

Countries Represented

Elevating Teen *Voices*



HARVARD
Advanced Leadership Initiative

Founded in 2012 at Harvard University, Write the World is dedicated to equipping teenagers with the confidence and competence to change the world, one word at a time.

Write the World's programs help develop teenagers' writing and critical thinking skills, and empowers young writers to become global citizens and succeed in school, career, and life.



Global Writing
Community



Writing
Competitions



College Essay Program &
Summer Workshops

A Safe and Supportive Global Writing Community

Our welcoming online educational environment provides a secure space for young writers to respond to prompts, provide and receive peer reviews, access monthly writing competitions, and connect with fellow teens as they publish work for an authentic audience. Our moderation team (including volunteers) helps ensure a safe and supportive community.

18k

New Users in 2025

18m

Words Written in 2025

461k

Comments in 2025



“What I really love about Write the World is the range of opportunities it offers alongside a genuinely supportive community...I also really appreciate how the platform connects writers from diverse backgrounds, and I've especially enjoyed reading others' work and seeing the wide range of topics and perspectives represented.”

Weien, age 18, China
Winner, Short Story Competition 2025



Global Connections that Build Community

Our young writers, ages 13-19, live all over the world and join Write the World for a variety of reasons, including: to become a published author, to find a community, to exercise their creativity, to improve their writing skills for school, to improve their English language abilities, and much more.

640k

Interactions between
teens from different
countries in 2025!



“I love discovering and appreciating other teen writers on the site... my Write the World peers have had such a profound impact on how I write.”

Anastasiya Sankevich, age 17, United States – Tennessee
Best peer review Nature Poetry Competition 2025,
Youth Advisory Board Member

Writing to Change Our World

In collaboration with the John F. Kennedy Library Foundation

Changing Our
World

JFK★

Created in collaboration with the John F. Kennedy Library Foundation, this writing prompt was inspired by Prince William's Earthshot initiative (which celebrates bold solutions to climate challenges, with ties to the iconic Moonshot Challenge by United States' 35th President, John F. Kennedy). Alongside the prompt, the Writing for Social Change curriculum packet provided middle school and high school teachers with resources to help students explore social issues through a range of writing activities. From several hundred responses written by teens from around the world, three standout pieces were featured at the Earthshot Innovation Challenge Awards Ceremony in January 2026.

The Future of AI in Writing

At Write the World, we embrace exploring AI as a tool that can enhance—not replace—the writing process. Clara, our Socratic AI writing partner, is available on our site for teens to consult as a guide in their creative writing, and to use in pilot programs with select educational institutions.



Unlike general AI tools, Clara is designed to meet writers' unique needs by encouraging reflection, critical thinking, and creativity without compromising originality.

Why Socratic?

Socratic-method AI empowers young people to trust their own ideas. Through dialogue, they are stimulated to return to their drafts, deepen their thinking, and explore new concepts. This interactivity scaffolds key metacognitive practices, asking teenagers to engage in self-reflection, build awareness of who they are as thinkers and writers, and consider their audiences' perspectives as they prepare original, authentic pieces of writing

Asking Clara



1k
Users

2k
Pieces with Clara

10k
Exchanges with Clara



“Clara gave me the kind of specific feedback that truly helps apply a broad idea in a specific place.”

Mahati V., age 15, United States – California
Youth Advisory Board Member



Challenged to Explore Genres, Ideas and Identity

Writing Competitions

11,400

Entries

14

Competitions

100

Countries
Represented

Each month, Write the World hosts a free competition dedicated to a particular topic or genre, such as poetry, environmental writing, op-ed, or flash fiction. Competitions encourage writers to dig more deeply into the writing process and share their work with eager readers. And because a first draft is never perfect, we foster a collaborative environment where teens can receive peer and expert feedback to consider and incorporate into their final piece.

- Nature Poetry (x2)
- Op-Ed
- Songwriting
- Poetry & Spoken Word
- Environmental Writing
- Personal Essay
- Sci-fi & Fantasy
- Flash Fiction
- Rule of Law: Creative Writing, Op-Ed and Personal Narrative
- Short Story
- People's Choice

Collaborator Highlight: **patagonia**[®]

What We Plant for the Future

We partnered with Patagonia to host an international environmental writing competition for teens, encouraging young writers to share their experiences and solutions regarding the climate crisis.

The winner and runner-up were published in the *Starfish Canada Youth Journal*, a platform that amplifies the voices of young people who care about making a difference in the environmental sustainability space.



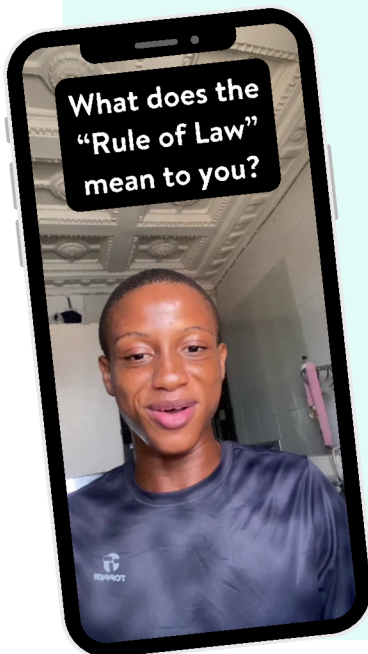
Diya Thennarasu, age 16, United States – California
Environmental Writing Competition Winner 2025

Collaborator Highlight: Justice and Law Through the Eyes of Teens

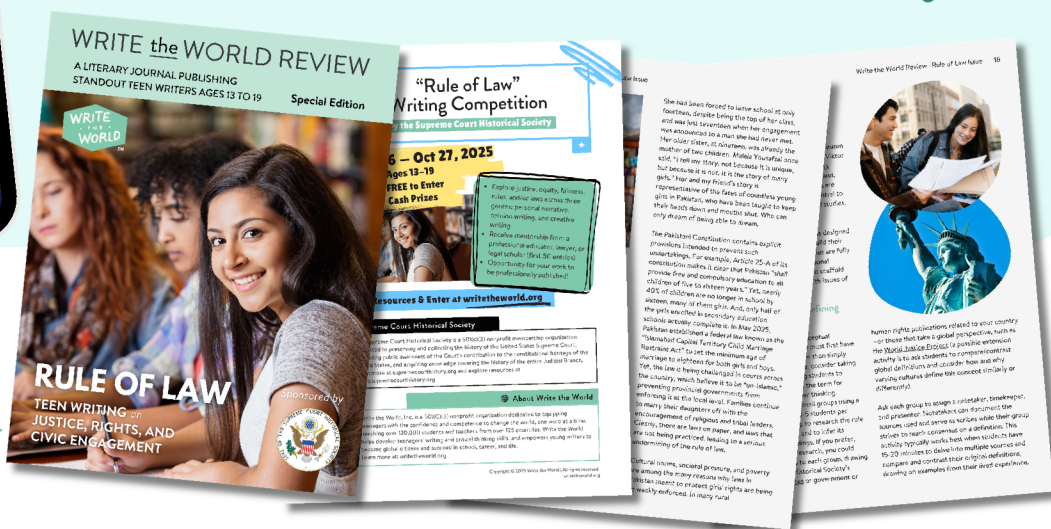


900+
Submissions

We collaborated with the Supreme Court Historical Society to ask young writers around the world to explore justice and law. Alongside the competition, we shared several classroom resources for teachers designed to help introduce the topic and build conceptual understanding. From over 900 submissions, U.S. federal judges The Hon. James Ho, The Hon. Seth Aframe, and The Hon. Melissa DuBose each chose a winner, runner-up, and best peer review for each category.



Op-ed Personal Narrative Creative Writing



“Write the World has become my creative haven, allowing me to nurture my love for writing and reading alongside my STEM-focused studies.”

**Anna Elyssa Cerezo, age 17, Philippines
Winner, Rule of Law 2025, Winner, Nature Poetry Competition 2025**

Crafting Confidence for Success in College & Beyond

College Essay Program

479

Teens used CEP in 2025 to pursue
the colleges of their dreams

Participants in our College Essay Program have earned acceptance from selective national universities as well as regional and local colleges. The course gives college-bound teens the structure, guidance, and expert support they need to craft a standout Personal Statement—along with a treasure trove of writing resources they'll carry into college and beyond.

Partnerships with high schools like Lowell High School in Massachusetts show what's possible when students gain access to expert, equity-centered writing support: the program has saved counselors over 1,000 hours while helping 99% of participating students earn college acceptances. These outcomes demonstrate how transformative the right writing support can be for schools with limited counseling resources and large numbers of first-generation college aspirants.

Harvard Columbia Brown Northwestern



“At first when I started my college applications, I felt really scared. I felt so much pressure from teachers, peers and just stressed overall... [Write the World] made me feel confident in my essay as an applicant and confident in whatever school I got accepted to because I knew that it would be the school for me.”

Elizabella Meas, Lowell High School, United States - Massachusetts
Accepted at University of South Florida

A Summer of Deep Learning

Last summer, teens jumped into new genres, learned from the experts, and wrote alongside their peers in our virtual online summer workshops. In 2025, we increased the number of students per camp by 38% since 2024 while reducing overall program costs. With participants spanning the U.S., Canada, South Korea, China, and beyond, our camps fostered both creativity and global community.

157
Teenagers across

6
Camps



Exploring
Fiction Genres



How to Write a
Novel
(2 sessions)



Fiction Writing:
The Art of
Storytelling



Science Fiction &
Fantasy: Writing
New Universes



Poetry: Finding
Power in Verse



How to Get
Published: Sharing
Your Writing

"10/10" ★★★★★★★★★★

Campers engaged directly with acclaimed authors and industry professionals, including Kiki Thorpe, Ryan La Sala, Giselle Vriesen, Elisabeth Sharp McKetta, Carolyn Kuebler, and Ambika Sambasivan and Suhani Parikh. Through these sessions, students gained insight into the writing process, revision, publishing pathways, and the realities of a creative life. Students reported transformative experiences—describing the workshops as “life-changing” and “10/10”—underscoring our commitment to building confident, connected young writers.



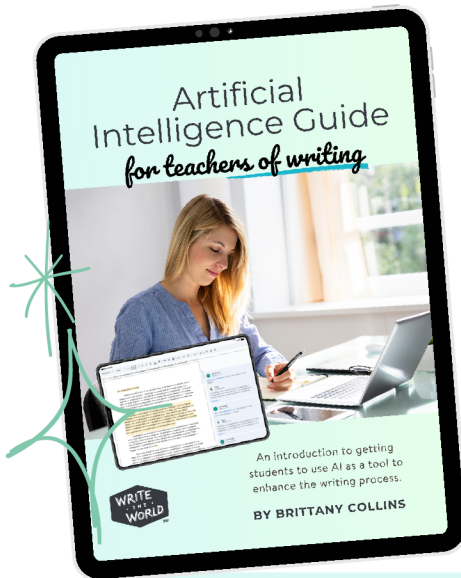
“My favorite part of Write the World is probably the community, all that I have experienced so far is very kind and open. I’m excited to engage further with other international writers and poets!”

**Sophia Mendham, age 17, United States – Michigan
Runner-up, Nature Poetry Competition 2025**

Scaling Impact With Educators

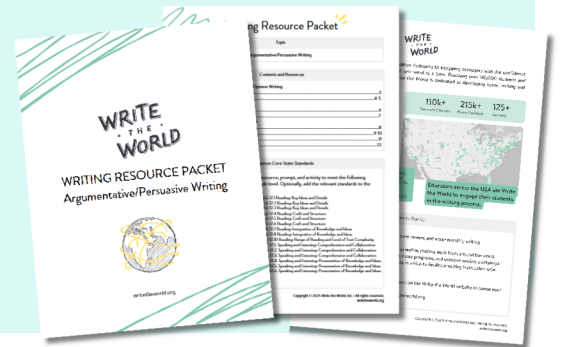
Our library of resources for teachers, parents, and homeschool instructors has grown this year, including classroom activities, mentor texts, lesson plans, and research and insights from experts. Notable new resources include:

- Q&A with Dr. Dan Siegel on the teen loneliness epidemic and how teachers, parents, and teens can use writing to counteract its negative effects.
- AI Guide for Teachers, a comprehensive downloadable resource that introduces artificial intelligence and provides a catalogue of resources that teachers can use to scaffold students' responsible use of AI as a tool to enhance, not replace, their writing process.
- Rule of Law lesson plan and readings for students and teachers. Sponsored by Supreme Court Historical Society, these materials engage students across disciplines in thinking and writing about civics, justice, and global citizenship.



Turnkey Curriculum Packets for Busy Educators

In 2025, Write the World launched a series of curriculum packets as a thank you to our educators who support the community. Packets include a reading/resource, writing prompt, classroom activity, optional AI extension, Common Core State Standards alignment information, and a space to personalize the lesson plan.



"[Write the World] provides a positive environment for regular interaction with and feedback from a variety of teenagers and professional writers whose first language is English. Positive feedback and awards on Write the World can be a big encouragement."

Anthony Wales, ESL teacher in China

Volunteers Who *Inspire*

- Community Support Team of Alumni, Educators, and Writing Professionals
- Guest Judges
- Workshop Speakers
- Youth Advisory Board Members
- Internship Programs
- Guest Contributors

68

Total volunteers in 2025



Volunteers from around the world support our community every day. Our volunteers include teachers, lawyers, novelists, actors, and aerospace engineers, all of whom are a testament to the fact that writing is integral to success in every career and life path. From supporting moderation to giving feedback to teens to helping to facilitate workshops, our volunteers directly open new doors and support the teens in our community.



Alex Attia

Billie Fitzpatrick

Rosabeth Moss Kanter

Sandy Alexandre

Fernando Reimers

Thank you to our advisory board members, who share their expertise and guidance with the Write the World team and community.

Hon. Anthony J. Mohr

Jacqui Fishman

Barbara Treacy

Amb. Khatuna Salukvadze

J. Todd Thaxton



Mentoring the Next Generation of *Writers & Leaders*

Each month, a distinguished Guest Judge—an accomplished author or expert in the field—joins our competition to inspire and guide young writers. From editors to celebrated sci-fi and fantasy authors, our Guest Judges offer personalized advice through exclusive blog interviews. Guest Judges also select and share commentary on the winner, runner-up, and best peer review. Their thoughtful feedback and encouragement make every competition a dynamic learning experience. We're grateful to these literary leaders who shared their time, insight, and passion with our global community in 2025.



Rachel Eliza Griffiths,
Poet & Novelist



Francisco J. Rivera
Rosario, Editor



Katherine Lynn-Rose,
Singer/Songwriter



Phil Kaye,
Poet & Performer



Anna Farro Henderson,
Climate Scientist &
Writer



Lidia Yuknavitch,
Bestselling Author



Ryan La Sala,
Fantasy & Horror
Author



Samantha Stone,
Author, Playwright, &
Educator



Aimee
Nezhukumatathil,
Poet & Essayist



The Hon. James Ho,
Judge for the U.S.
Court of Appeals for
the Fifth Circuit



The Hon. Seth Aframe,
Judge for the U.S.
Court of Appeals for
the First Circuit

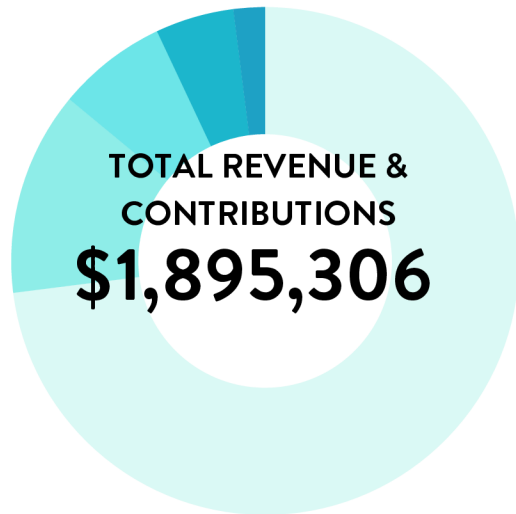


The Hon. Melissa
DuBose, Judge for the
U.S. District Court of
Rhode Island



Rowana Miller,
YA Fiction Writer

Financial Highlights



Public Charities & Foundations	73%
Individual Giving	13%
Program Revenue	7%
Corporate Sponsorships	5%
In-Kind Contributions	2%
Other Grants	0%



Programs	72%
General & Administrative	21%
Fundraising	7%

**Excluding non-cash amortization*



“I developed so many skills on Write the World, like learning to find my unique voice and tone in my writing, the art of giving feedback, and the ability to continue writing even with a lack of motivation. As I look towards my future now, I feel prepared.”

Ruth, age 19, Australia
Write the World Youth Advisory Board Member & Intern,
Now an Expert Reviewer at Write the World and
Art Department Assistant/Director for film sets

Collaborations that Compound *Impact*

Thank you to our supporters and collaborators for turning shared vision into real-world impact.



JOHN F. KENNEDY
LIBRARY FOUNDATION



Google
for Nonprofits



patagonia®



THE COOP
HARVARD

The Wayne Dyer
Family Foundation

Growth into Lifelong Confidence



“The most rewarding things about writing, for me, are the connections that I can make with people through my work. Finding other young writers and people passionate about the same things as you is really special, and Write the World is a great place to do that!”

Stella Watson, New Zealand

Civics in Action Fellow, Write the World & Facing History
Student Fiction Prize 2025, University of Otago

Now Studying Psychology, Philosophy, Politics and Economics
at the University of Otago/Ōtākou Whakaihu Waka

To Our Supporters



These contributions help us equip young writers with the power of words to fulfill their dreams – to attend college, connect with others, and change the world for the better. Our free online community relies upon the generosity of friends like you.

\$75,000+

David Weinstein
Fidelity Charitable
Vanguard Charitable
Anonymous

\$10,000-\$74,999

Curvey Family Foundation
Rosabeth Moss Kanter
Jim Roberts

\$2,500-\$9,999

Kristine Ervin
Fisher Family
Arthur J. & Elizabeth H. Greenwood
George Krupp
J.P. Liang
Anthony J. Mohr
Nancy Sommers
Richard & Joanne Spillane
Anonymous

“Literature is such a key element of life, and platforms like Write the World help to keep that going.”

- Magdalena, age 14, Canada



\$1,000-\$2,499

Alex Attia
Bill Ebsworth
DAFgiving360
Maureen Karle
Michael Krupp
Bill & Doris Loehning

Robin & Vincent
Loporchio Charitable Fund
T. Rowe Price
Roberts Family
Jeffrey Sabin
Larry Silverstein
D. Ellen Wilson

\$250-\$999

Sandy Alexandre
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JP Morgan
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Tom Novak
Elizabeth Rogers
Tom Santel
Alan Solomont
Paul Sullivan
Nicole Twomey
Anonymous (3)

Our Supporters cont.

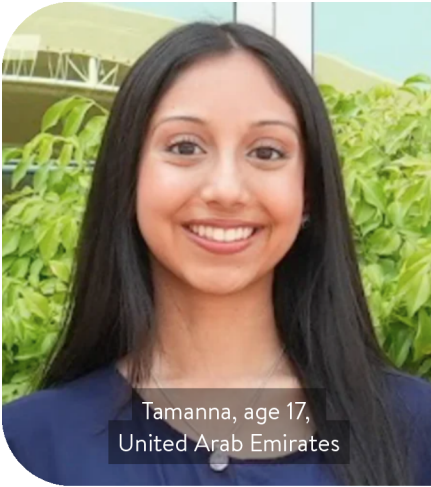
Up to \$249

Mikaela Manning Bagdonas
Moirra Ballard
Natalie Barnard
Richie Billing
Jennifer Brown
Ramona Buchanan
Nicholas Burgoyne
Anne Burke
Beth S. Buxbaum
Abraham R. Cary
Royce Castillo
Mary Caudle
Kathy Arnold Cherry
Audrey Collins
Gloria Collins
Tammy Davis
Lisa Dion
Julia Djeke
David Donohue
Adele Dummermuth
Kaci Elder
Alicea fd
Timothy Foote
Michael Foote
Megan Foote
Betsey Foy
Glenn Gibbs
Siyana Georgieva
Bruce Gold
Ginny Gong
Anand Gopalan
David Hain
Agape Hammond
Peter Houlahan
Shao-wei Huang

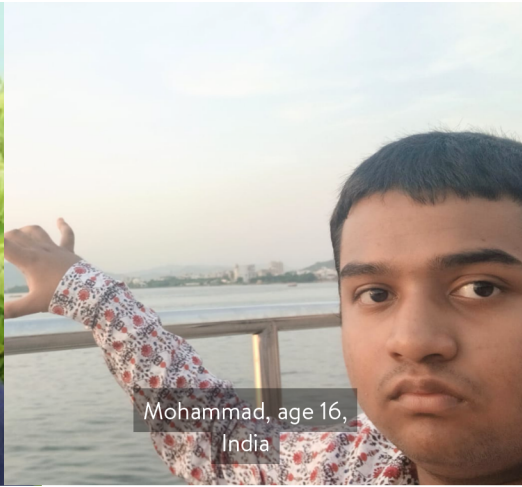
Judith Jester
Samantha E. Kaminski
Sabur Khan
Jennifer Korth
Catherine Krtil
Shawna LeClair
Amy Lipke
Mary Manning
Leslie Marshall
Ernest Marx
Jeffery McCalla
Hannah McFadyen
Heather Mehta
Jacqueline Q. Milanes
Rowana Miller
Lisa Mills
Spencer B. Neyland
Melissa Anne Nichols
Caroline O'Connor
James O'Connor
Christa Olson
Janyce M. Omura
Marie O'Rourke
Lydia Pace
Nicole M. Paulson
Lori Pelliccia
Jan Pennisi
Bernadette Persons-Nelson
Alyssa Plasencia
Jennifer Pollick
Shantell Powell
Nancy L. Richerson
Cary Riker
Di Roberts
Paul Rogers

Carrie Rollins
Aidan Russell
Jeff Sabin
Shelly Sanders
Amir Andra Ruiz Santiago
Guljermal Saparova
Erica Shadwell
Christan Shaffer
Jill Shapiro
Jenny Sherman
Angela Smith
Marva Solomon
David Sparks
Kathryn Spires
Trevien Stanger
Stephanie Stern
Donald Stewart
Lindsay Brown Stokes
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Kirra Stuart
Zoya Surits
Isabelle Teo
Todd Thaxton
Sara Ting
Warren Tolman
Barbara Treacy
Andy Trincia
Annabella D. Twomey
Miss E. A. Waters
Kelly Wing
Nichole Wright
Rebecca Louise Wycoff
Christopher Yang
Serena Zhen
Anonymous (37)

Thank You 



Tamanna, age 17,
United Arab Emirates



Mohammad, age 16,
India



Susanna, age 13,
Australia

We envision a world where writing
inspires students from all backgrounds
to understand their identities, celebrate
their diversity, and right the world—

one word at a time.



Join the mission!

Get involved at writetheworld.org







Write the World is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit dedicated to equipping teenagers with the confidence and competence to change the world, one word at a time.



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EIN 88-2997005