

WRITE
THE
WORLD

ANNUAL REPORT 2023



INSPIRING TEENS TO
CHANGE THE WORLD
ONE WORD AT A TIME

Dear Friends,

Write the World successfully completed its first full year as a nonprofit organization in 2023. We're proud to share this Impact Report that shows our progress toward the goal of inspiring teenagers from diverse backgrounds to develop the writing and critical thinking skills necessary to succeed in school, career, and life. Writing is a core human competency. Yet over the past two decades, studies have shown that fewer than 25% of US high school students write proficiently. Our programs address opportunity gaps in writing education by engaging teens to share their voices - their lived experiences - through writing to peers around the globe.

Thanks to the support of donors, volunteers, and dedicated staff, our inclusive global community of writers and educators continued to grow. In 2023, we welcomed over 13,000 new writers ages 13-19, and published 29,000 pieces totaling over 8.5 million words. Since inception, we've engaged over 101,000 teens and their educators from more than 125 countries, fostering understanding across geographic, racial, and cultural divides.

In 2023, we hosted 13 global writing competitions and expanded programs designed to close opportunity gaps in literacy education for Black and Brown teens and youth of low socioeconomic status in urban US communities. Our college essay, writing workshop, and after-school programs continued to present exciting opportunities to reach underserved teens by collaborating with local community-based organizations. At both global and local levels, the combination of our thoughtful pedagogy and proprietary technology encourages teens to write, reflect, and tell their authentic stories across genres, ranging from personal narrative, to journalism, poetry, environmental writing, and more.

We also launched an enhanced technology platform, culminating a year-long development effort. To help overcome the isolation teens often feel online, our interactive technology promotes a supportive writing community through peer engagement, content moderation, and search functions designed to knit students together as they explore new writing genres across countries. Of course, the pace of technology innovation continues unabated, and we're introducing AI tools and guidance into our writing process - in ways that put human creativity and critical thinking first.



101k+
TEENS & EDUCATORS

125+
COUNTRIES

Top countries represented include:
United States, Australia, India, United Kingdom, Canada, Pakistan, China, Nigeria

Throughout the year, our young writers showed the optimism and determination necessary to make change in their world. As 17-year-old Maya from Nevada wrote: “As I grow up, I’m becoming a determined advocate for women’s rights, and continuously educating myself on women’s issues. Because so many women are silenced, or made to feel voiceless, I want to speak for them and myself.” Our tolerant community inspires writers build the competence, confidence, and mindset to advocate for change.

Writing is how students connect the dots of their learning. But writing is more than a critical skill. It’s a pathway for self-discovery, inquiry, and advocacy. Write the World is an inclusive and respectful place where teen writers - from all backgrounds - acquire the literacy skills needed to shape a better world. Your support expresses your faith in this diverse new generation of writers to change our world. With your support we will continue to equip young writers with the critical thinking and writing skills necessary to fulfill their dreams and right the world, one word at a time.

Sincerely,



David Weinstein
Founder & CEO
Write the World, Inc.

Our Mission

To equip teenagers with the confidence and competence to change the world, one word at a time. By developing teenagers’ writing and critical thinking skills, we empower young writers to become global citizens and succeed in school, career, and life.

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.



YOUNG VOICES HAVE THE POWER TO CHANGE THE WORLD

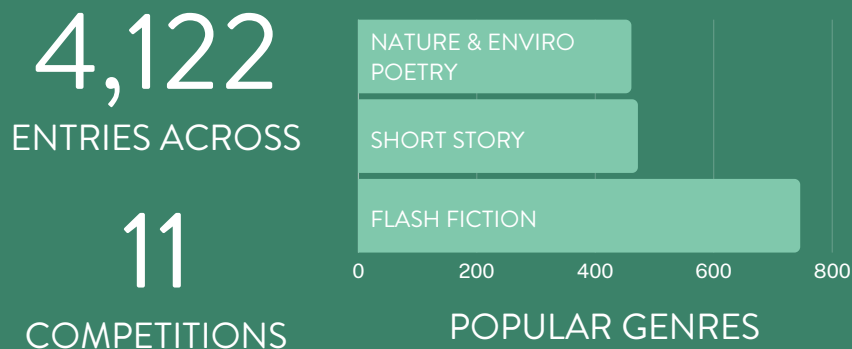
Write the World Global Community

Our welcoming, safe, online educational environment provides a 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. On our global platform, teachers utilize virtual classroom groups, lesson plans, assessment tools, and other resources designed to supplement their curriculum - all while forging cross-cultural connections between teens across continents.



Monthly Writing Competitions

Each month, Write the World holds a free competition developed around a particular idea or genre of writing, such as poetry, fantasy, sports journalism, or flash fiction. Competitions encourage young writers to dig deeper into the writing process, try out new genres, and share their work with a sea of eager readers.



Virtual Summer Writing Camps

Our virtual writing workshops allow young writers (ages 13-19) to spend their summer immersed in a virtual community of teen writers as they experiment with the written word, try new styles of writing, and work with notable professionals to create pieces they're proud of - all from the comfort of their home.

Supporting Teachers, Parents, and Homeschoolers

Write the World is grounded in pedagogical and business principles from the Harvard Graduate School of Education and Harvard Business School. Our commitment to educational best practices and the design of engaging, thoughtful, and scaffolded curricula informs the resources that we offer to teachers.

Our educator resources empower teachers to build students' literacy, cross-cultural competence, and social and emotional skills. We offer a rich library of activities, standards-aligned lesson plans, mentor texts written by teens around the world, cross-genre writing prompts, and more. Most resources are ideal or adaptable for grades 8-12.

[Read Now !\[\]\(74d4806277d7e73349d8e8c0897931e9_img.jpg\)](#)



- 3,000+ educators receiving monthly resources
- Lesson Plans by Genre
- Strategies and Tips
- Handouts
- Mentor Texts

“ I love having such creative topics for students to engage with in writing — thank you! ”

Gabrielle Fudge
Middle School Teacher, FL, USA

INSPIRING TEENS TO TELL THEIR STORY AND ENVISION A SUCCESSFUL FUTURE

College Essay Program

The Complete Your College Essay Online Course offers college-bound teens a guided and structured course to develop their fully drafted, stand-out Personal Statement, as well as a plethora of writing resources for college and beyond. The College Essay Review service allows teens to submit drafts to our team of Expert Advisors for review, and receive fully personalized, multi-page reports within 48 hours. Our students have been accepted to colleges such as Harvard, Columbia, Brown, Northwestern, and many more.

[Learn More →](#)

EMERSON
Tufts BOSTON
Harvard BROWN
NORTHWESTERN
Columbia

Teen Spotlight

"The assistance I received through Write the World's College Essay Review service was extremely influential in my admissions experience...I learned to think not only as the person writing but as the reader as well. I truly learned to consider the way my words affected my readers and how to choose the best words to convey my message. I will be forever grateful for the role the program played in helping me get into Ivys and highly competitive BSMD programs."

Oyinloluwa Ganiyu
United States, 18

Majoring in Studio Arts and Biology at the University of Pittsburgh and planning to attend medical school through the Guaranteed Admissions Program.



Community Support Team

29

COMMUNITY SUPPORT
TEAM MEMBERS

Our Community Support Team members help our site run smoothly and support our budding young writers. From shortlisting competition entries to moderating the site, our volunteers are integral to the community!

Alumni and Young Professional Writers

When teens age out of our programs (at 20) many join our alumni and young professional network – now over 10,000 members. This is a space where young adults with a passion for writing can connect and share their work, by joining bi-monthly free writing workshops and networking with each other.

[See Workshops →](#)



Baran Rostamian

Australia, 23

Published her book Woven Frays in 2023

Alumni Spotlight

Positive and attentive responses to my posts [on Write the World] encouraged me to keep sharing what I'd written and this momentum made me brave enough to apply for other writing opportunities and actually start publishing. One of the poems in my book, Woven Frays, was drafted on Write the World!

Internship Program

Our inaugural group of student interns in Summer 2023 took on several responsibilities through a scaffolded program. These young professionals gained experience in the behind-the-scenes working of our nonprofit as they supported community moderation, reviewing, and mentored under a Write the World colleague for a special project in technology, marketing, and/or administration.

Community Ambassadors

Young writers ages 13-19 can apply to be a Community Ambassador. Ambassadors model exceptional behaviors and examples to foster a vibrant culture of writers within the Write the World community. Over the course of a semester, they receive guidance giving constructive feedback, learn how to design a prompt, and build a mini portfolio of their work and contributions. Over 150 teens have participated in the program since 2014.

Community Ambassador Spotlight

“No other experiences have better aided me or helped me grow as a writer. Having the chance to help other writers is wonderful and a great way to help yourself, too. I can say without a doubt that being involved in the Community Ambassador programme was a significant turning point in my writing career.”

Anna O'Connor

Ireland, Community Ambassador 2020-2021



THE NEXT GENERATION

Guest Judges Supporting the Next Generation of Writers

Judges are published writers distinguished in their field who help select and comment on the winning pieces. The 12 new judges this year join a large list of notable experts that includes inaugural poets, presidential speech writers, and more. We are thankful to our guest judge volunteers for contributing their perspectives and expertise this year!



Carla Panciera
Poet, Author, High School English Teacher



Alexandria Villaseñor
Award-winning Youth Environmental Activist



Elisabeth Sharp McKetta
Author, Harvard's *Excellence in Teaching Writing Award*



Nastasha Alli
Writer, Tourism Professional, *Food Sustainability Media Award*



Chadwick Stokes
Musician, Songwriter, Non-profit Founder



Sy Montgomery
Non-fiction Author, Finalist for the *National Book Awards*



Tara Lynn Masih
Author, Editor, Finalist *National Jewish Book Awards*



Craig Santos Perez
Poet, Professor at University of Hawai'i at Mānoa



Tomi Adeyemi
Nigerian-American Writer, *Nebula Award*



Carolyn Kuebler
Author, Editor of *New England Review*

TEEN VOICES IN ACTION



Issue 5.1 May 2023

[Read Now →](#)



Issue 5.2 Nov. 2023

[Read Now →](#)

Write the World Review

A LITERARY JOURNAL PUBLISHING STANDOUT TEEN WRITERS AGES 13-19

Write the World Review is a bi-annual literary journal publishing and highlighting teen voices and perspectives. Read one of the poems featured in the May 2023 issue of the Review to the right!

AFTER THE SEA

Sasindie Subasinghe (Sri Lanka)

After the sea, you sit on the beach
and learn its name. Saagaraya,
you whisper to the breaking water,
place a palm over the lapping waves
and say, before I ever knew you
I knew you by another name.

After the sea, you learn the words
to describe it. Blue, you say. Salty.
Ancient. Monster. Rising. The sea
is never satisfied, all night it rails
against the shore. Azure. God
-like. The sea smiles. Moon-charmed.

After the sea, you find the sea
glass in the rocks, Beachberry in the weed.
You learn the name of each thing
again. Atlantis. Black Pearl. You learn
to say ocean like a poet, ocean
like a seashell, Ocean like a name.

After the sea, you refine your bad
English, your British-American, your non
-native tongue. You swap the common
nouns for proper ones. Every dawn
you learn to spot the Sea Holly in the beach
brush but never call it a flower.



[Read Now →](#)

Climate Writing Awards

Our inaugural competition sponsor Seventh Generation partnered with us to support the Climate Writing awards in April 2023. Three simultaneous prompts (for poetry, fiction, and op-ed) resulted in over 380 entries and 3 standout winners featured in the collection (read now).

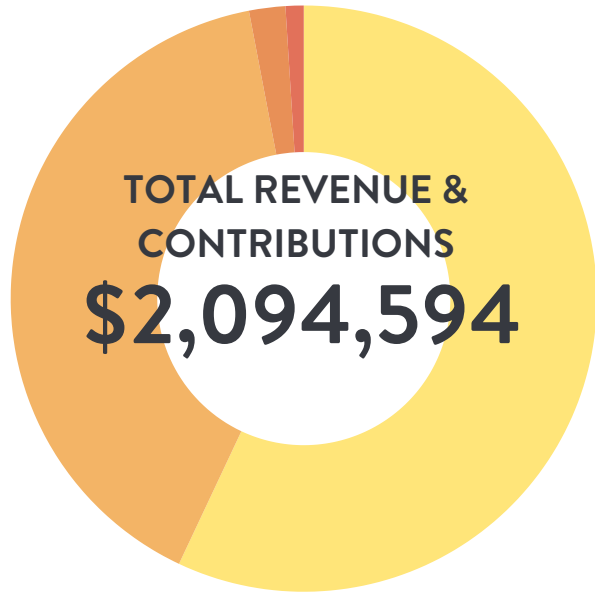


Seventh
GENERATION.

Afterschool Program

Write the World Afterschool engages students in using writing as a form of changemaking. Through meaningful reflection, writing, peer review, and revision activities, as well as a Writing Celebration in which teens share their work with authentic audiences, we support teens' self-expression as they advocate for causes they care about through the written word. Participants experiment with fiction, opinion journalism, personal narrative, and poetry, all with an eye toward social justice. In 2024, we are partnering with Boys and Girls Club Boston, Mattapan location, to bring the six-week program to over 30 teens, and look forward to more partnerships in the future.

2023 Financials



Institutional Giving	57%
Individual Giving	40%
Program Revenue	2%
Corporate Sponsorships	1%



Programs	67%
Management + Administration	26%
Fundraising	7%



What's Next?

In 2024, we're working to:

- ✓ Expand Global Membership and Diversity
- ✓ Grow Monthly Writing Competitions
- ✓ Deepen Impact in Underserved Communities through College Essay Programs and Writing Workshops
- ✓ Provide Resources for Writing with Artificial Intelligence Tools
- ✓ Add Volunteers, Sponsors, Donors, and Supporters
- ✓ Increase Community Engagement

How to Get Involved:

DONATE

VOLUNTEER

PARTNER



Join the mission!
writetheworld.org





WRITE • THE • WORLD

Join the mission!
writetheworld.org

