



# YOUTH WRITING FESTIVAL

Gateway Writing Project (GWP) hosts a writing festival for middle school students in the EdCollabitat on the UMSL South campus. Students participate in three break-out sessions that focus on improving writing skills and style. The writing festival concludes with a an open-mic sharing session to celebrate the students and the writing they have created throughout the day. You don't want to miss this opportunity!



**GWP BELIEVES YOUNG WRITERS SHOULD HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO:**

- play with voices and words
- create poetry, fiction, & memoirs
- share writing with peers
- celebrate themselves as writers

Nov. 10

# YOUTH WRITING FESTIVAL

## REGISTRATION INFORMATION:

- Registration/check-in is from 8:45 a.m. - 9:15 a.m. The first session begins promptly at 9:30 a.m. Schools can be dismissed during the end-of-program open-mic sharing celebration if necessary. All schools will be dismissed by 1:30 p.m.
- Registration Fee = \$25/per student
- Registration includes: all festival activities, a writer's notebook, snacks & a drink.
- Students and teachers should bring lunch.
- Transportation will not be provided by UMSL or GWP.
- Online Registration is open from Oct. 1 - Oct. 27. You will register a total number of students via the online registration system. Individual student information needs to be provided via spreadsheet by Nov. 3.
- Registration is first come, first served. Space for this event may fill due to venue capacity. Please register early.

[bit.ly/YWFFregistrationinfo](https://bit.ly/YWFFregistrationinfo)

**Registration: Oct. 1 - Oct. 27**

# YOUTH WRITING FESTIVAL

## Break-Out Session Descriptions

### **Session A-- Unlocking Your Inner Stories with Ms. Jen Maddock**

Did you know you have a bank of hidden stories waiting inside you? We will work together on an activity that will reveal them so you can begin writing.

### **Session D--Is a Picture Worth a Thousand Words? with Ms. Cathy O'Brien**

You won't have to write 1,000 words in this session --- but be ready to let your poetic side be inspired by pieces of art. Creativity and imagination are highly encouraged!

### **Session B--Two-Sentence Flash Fiction Halloween Scare Fest with Mr. Jason Carter**

Simple statements pack a punch by tapping into what already exists within the reader. Intense emotion rises to the surface with just a few words: "She really loved you," "Please forgive me," "He's gone." Edgar Allan Poe related to contemporary fears and emotions to create terrifying stories and poems. Like Poe, we will write two-sentence horror stories that will scare us all with horrific brilliance.

### **Session E--If the Hat Fits, Wear It with Mr. Craig Bodenschatz**

We will use props and journaling to develop short story elements. If you have trouble brainstorming ideas for themes and developing fictional characters, if you have trouble creating your own unique voice, if you need to explode a moment or create a backstory, look no further. Inventing your own individual brand as a writer may be as easy as changing hats.

### **Session C--Barbie-IRL with Ms. Megan O'Brien**

Come on Barbie, let's go party! In the 2023 summer classic, Barbie leaves Barbieland for the real world. Your job is to tell us what happens next! You will be given the setting of where Barbie ends up and then the freedom to take it from there. Tell us what happens next in the story of Barbara Millicent Roberts.

### **Session F--It Is Written with Ms. Jasmin Easterling & Ms. Leslie Hamm**

The world is a canvas for our self-expression, our stories, and our activism. We use writing in many different genres and mediums to respond to the world around us. In this session, we will learn about how writing has been used to tell some really powerful stories and make changes that shake the world. We will also create our own response to what we see around us.

## Pick 3 Sessions

# YOUTH WRITING FESTIVAL

## Student Registration

Registration (Please print in ink.)

Gateway Writing Project Youth Writing Festival Friday, Nov. 10, 2023  
9:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. UMSL South Campus - EdCollabitat

Students, please write the letter of your top 4 session choices and complete registration info below. Parents must sign form. (TEACHERS: Please bring forms with you on the day of the festival.)

1st choice = session \_\_\_\_

2nd choice = session \_\_\_\_

3rd choice = session \_\_\_\_

4th choice = session \_\_\_\_

Student Name

Grade

School

Parent email address or phone number

Parent Signature

My child's attendance at the Youth Writing Festival indicates my consent for my child's writing, photograph, and/or video to be included in Gateway Writing Project Youth Writing Festival publications.

X \_\_\_\_\_

HAVE QUESTIONS?

CONTACT GWP DIRECTOR KATIE O'DANIELS AT 314-516-5578 / ODANIELSK@UMSL.EDU

# YOUTH WRITING FESTIVAL

## TEACHER CHECKLIST

- Get administrative approval to attend on Nov. 10. One teacher may attend free for every five paid registrations. We require one teacher for every 20 students.
- Secure transportation. If your students will be traveling by bus, determine travel time and route to the EdCollabitat at UMSL. Registration check-in is between 8:45 a.m. - 9:15 a.m. The first break-out session begins at 9:30.
- Decide on a method of payment. (If parents are paying, then you will need to collect money when students return registration form.)
  - Schools may pay for all student registrations via credit card using our online registration system.
  - Schools may pay for all student registrations with school check or purchase order. These forms of payment may either be brought to the festival on Nov. 10 or they may be sent via U.S. mail to:

Gateway Writing Project  
Attn: Katie O'Daniels  
1 University Blvd.  
302 Marillac Hall  
St. Louis, MO 63121
  - Students may pay individually with personal check (made payable to University of Missouri-St. Louis). Teachers should collect registration fees from students and bring to the festival on Nov. 10 or mail to the address above. If you have students who are in need of a scholarship to pay their registration fees, please contact GWP co-director, Katie O'Daniels, at 314-516-5578 or [odanielsk@umsl.edu](mailto:odanielsk@umsl.edu)
- Distribute registration forms to students. We recommend that you set a deadline for students to return the signed form (and payment, if students are paying individually). Due to capacity of our venue, we are limiting schools to a maximum of 20 students. Please keep in mind that this is a full day of writing. Students of any skill level are welcome; students who willingly engage with writing are recommended. **All signed student registration forms must be brought to the festival with you on Nov. 10.**
- Register your students by **October 27**. Instructions to register and pay for your students via our online registration system can be found here: [bit.ly/YWFregistrationinfo](https://bit.ly/YWFregistrationinfo)