GWP hosts a writing festival for students at the JC Penney Conference Center on the UMSL North campus. Students participate in three break-out sessions and experience an open-mic sharing celebration. The day provides students with mini-sessions that focus on improving writing skills and style. The day concludes with a celebration of writing for students and teachers. 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
REGISTRATION INFORMATION:

- Registration/check-in is from 8:30 a.m. - 8:55 a.m. The opening session begins at 9:00 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 deadline is October 28, 2022 (A total number of students must be registered by this date; individual student information needs to be provided by Nov. 3)
## Break-Out Session Descriptions

### Session A-- My Community, Your Community. Our Community with Ms. Megan O’Brien
What does community mean? How do different levels of community affect our lives? What connections can we make across our communities? We will explore our personal communities and find connections to the broader communities of each other in the session. This reflection-focused writing will give insight into the valuable ways that communities influence our lives.

### Session B--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 C--Identity Maps: A Place to Shine with Ms. Metropoulos
What makes you you? Celebrate your uniqueness and create an identity map. We will use symbols, doodles/images, songs, comfort food, dreams and hobbies, and labels to create and share with each other. No two identity maps will look the same.

### Session D--My Manifesto with Ms. Hackmeyer
Empower your voice and make yourself heard! In this session you will write and design your own personal manifesto about a topic that is meaningful to you.

### Session E--True to You Poetry with Ms. Crump
These past two years have been a rollercoaster ride, so what’s on your mind? We are going to take a fresh perspective on the true meaning of self-expression through poetry. We will look at the work of classic and contemporary poets, but most importantly, you will write your own poems about being yourself. So let’s set our inner poet free! You will learn to communicate your message through your words and combine art and poetry for ultimate self-expression.

### Session F--Unlocking Your Inner Stories with Ms. 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 G--Writing Marathon: Watching and Writing with Ms. Griner
Breathe in the air and breathe out the words. We will walk around the surrounding campus area, or step inside the library if the weather is unfavorable for outdoor walking. We will observe, listen, reflect, write, and share.

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**Pick 3 Sessions**
## Student Registration

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Registration (Please print in ink.)</th>
<th>Gateway Writing Project Youth Writing Festival Thursday, Nov. 10, 2022 8:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. UMSL J.C. Penney Conference Center</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>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.)</td>
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<tr>
<th>Student Name</th>
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<th>Parent email address or phone number</th>
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<th>Parent Signature</th>
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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
OR CATHY GRINER AT 314-471-5546 / GRINERC@UMSL.EDU
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 J.C. Penney Conference Center at UMSL. Registration check-in is between 8:30 a.m. - 8:55 a.m. The opening session begins at 9:00.

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

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). There is no limit on the number of students you may bring; however, this is a full day of writing and may not be well-suited for all students. Schools typically send between 20 - 25 students. All signed student registration forms must be brought to the festival with you on Nov. 10.

Register your students by October 28. Instructions to register and pay for your students via our online registration system can be found here: bit.ly/YWFregistrationinfo