

SHARE YOUR LEARNING

Join the movement to help **5 million students publicly share their learning** each year by June 2019. Be one of **300,000 teachers committed and connected** across the nation to transform schools into centers of engagement and hope.



“Writing Our Future” On the Road

Your young authors have the potential to become change makers. Empower them to share their ideas and their ideals publicly!

National Writing Project has a new youth publishing opportunity connected to the PBS documentary [American Creed](#). The film, which is co-produced by Citizen Film and WTTW, encourages youth to explore questions like “*What should America’s national ideals be?*” and “*How do we close the gap between ideals and reality?*” You and the youth you work with are invited to add your voice to the conversation about *American Creed* by participating in the “Writing Our Future” project. Share Your Learning is partnering with NWP to encourage teachers to have their students write *and* share their work with the wider community at local venues. We hope this opportunity ignites a fire of civil discourse and civic action in your community!

Why do it?



Writing in its many forms is the signature means of communication in the 21st century. The NWP envisions a future where every person is an accomplished writer, engaged learner, and active participant in a digital, interconnected world.

Publish Online: Youth 13+ are invited by the NWP to share their responses to the film online through the American Creed Youth Publishing Site. Writing Project teachers have created five prompts for youth to respond to in an online publishing platform. For each prompt there are extended texts, examples of student work, and related resources. The site opens February 27, 2018; visit <http://writingourfuture.nwp.org/americancreed/pages/home> for more details.

Writing is a powerful tool. It can inspire others, incite social change, influence politics and policy, and it can transform people’s beliefs about themselves and the world. Powerful writing is not meant for just one person to read, but is designed to reach a wider audience. As teachers we can elevate student writing by giving students the opportunity to share with a broader audience.

In the same way that musicians, sports teams, and motivational speakers travel to share their talents with an audience, students can step out of the classroom to share their work with authentic audiences! By presenting at different venues students see that their work has value beyond the classroom walls.

Want to take “Writing Our Future” on the road? Turn the page for some simple ways to take your students out of the classroom and into the community!

Want more resources and a chance to connect with a community of practitioners?
Visit www.shareyourlearning.org and commit to share your students’ learning!

Get in Touch with Local Venues:

Community/City Library
City Hall
Civic Center
Local Museums
Local Art Galleries
Coffee Shops
Restaurants

Barnes and Noble or local bookshops
Apple Store
Parks
Community Center
Retirement Homes
Boys and Girls Club
YMCA

How to Ask:

- Visit the location where you would like to have students share their learning. This will allow you to visualize the space and see if it is appropriate for your event.
- Contact the manager or proprietor to share your idea and enlist their partnership. Be sure to explain why this venue is perfect for students to share their learning with the public. It is helpful to communicate how having your event at the location is beneficial for the venue as well. (e.g. publicity, clientele, recognition, etc.)
- Once you've secured the venue, discuss your hopes for the event, including potential dates, time frame, facility needs etc.

Sample Email or Phone Communication:

Hello,

I'm a teacher at ___(school)___ in ___(neighborhood)___ . My ___(grade)___ class is working on a project that examines what America's national ideals should be and how to close the gap between ideals and reality. We will be creating responses to the documentary, *American Creed*, and submitting them for publication with the National Writing Project. Our students would like the opportunity to engage in civil discourse and share their responses with a broader audience.

We hope to be able to present excerpts of our essays, digital stories, audio stories, and other media in a public venue, such as ___(name of venue)___, so we can share our work with the community. We think the ___(name of venue)___ is perfect for our project because _____. We plan to exhibit sometime in ___(month)___ . Thank you for your consideration.

Tips and Tricks for a Local Venue Exhibition:

- Ask the venue if they already have audio-visual equipment available for your use. If not, bring your own.
- Visit the space ahead of time to plan out where the audience will be and where the performers will be. Decide if you want seating, a stage, or another format that puts the focus on your students.
- Publicize the event by creating posters to hang around the community, sending email blasts to the venue's community, and/or sending invites to families and community members.
- Decide on the time that will maximize attendance of students and community members.
- Plan for transportation (e.g. walking, public transportation, carpools, school buses, etc.).

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