



# WRITING THE COMMUNITY

**WRITING THE COMMUNITY** is a school-based creative writing residency program for youth with the goals of developing creative and critical thinking skills, promoting a love of reading and writing, and demonstrating the power of language through poetry and creative writing. In the fall and spring of each year, the University of Arizona Poetry Center places professional writers in local K-8 classrooms to lead six-to-eight-week long creative writing workshops. Programs are available both during regular class time and after school. Schools can select programs in different genres: poetry, fiction, and creative non-fiction. At the end of the residency, students read a selection of their work at a celebratory reading and have one of their poems or stories published in our annual city-wide anthology.

**In Writing the Community students write new stories, revise old clichés, and invent unbounded ways of seeing the world.**

Witness your students writing the community in poems, stories, and essays that explore the limitless possibilities of their language. Witness how they use words to explore the power of memory, possibility, and the imaginative forces that shape their world.

Listen to youth articulate myriad ways of knowing with fresh, funny, wise words that demonstrate a thinking mind, minds poised to consider the challenges of the future.

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For more information about UA Poetry Center Writing the Community, contact (520) 626-9625 or visit [poetry.arizona.edu/writingthecommunity](http://poetry.arizona.edu/writingthecommunity)

PHOTO CREDITS: Girl Composing (cover) and Poet Teaching (inside) by Jeff Smith; Word Play (back cover) by Danielle Cooney; all other Writing the Community photos by Dan Buckley

## THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA POETRY CENTER

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THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA  
**POETRY CENTER**





## COLLABORATIVE TEACHING & TRAINING

Our talented team of professional writers represent Tucson's vibrant literary scene. These poets and writers bring innovative, contemporary literature and foundational writing techniques to your school.

Professional writers are teamed-up with teaching assistants, students studying creative writing and literature at the University of Arizona.

***Classroom teachers play an important collaborative role—they write alongside students, provide classroom management, extend the lessons into other areas in the curriculum, and serve as a liaison between school administration, parents, and the Poetry Center.***

Classroom teachers who participate in this program receive up to 12 hours of professional development credit for working alongside the resident writer, attending the introductory professional development workshop, publishing lesson plans and extension activities on the Poetry Center's blog 1508, and hosting extra visits from poets.

## CREATIVE WRITING WORKSHOPS within ARIZONA STANDARDS

Writing the Community program can help teachers meet these aspects of the Arizona College and Careers Ready Standards:

- **Expand** the range of poems, stories, and essays beyond standard text exemplars, and connect these new texts to other areas of the curriculum or student interest.
- **Model** discussions that encourage supporting claims with evidence from the text.
- **Connect** students with additional visits from nationally recognized contemporary writers in town for the Poetry Center's renowned Reading and Lecture series.
- **Explore** new techniques, games, and modes of inquiry to generate writing and create narratives that develop real or imagined experiences or events with descriptive details.
- **Model** the publication process as students help to prepare, copyedit, and approve their galley for publication in our annual city-wide anthology.

## GETTING STARTED

Schools are selected for participation in Writing the Community workshops based upon a number of factors including need, funding, demographics, and level of partner commitment. When we meet with your school we make a plan that works best for you and your staff.

Partner schools receive additional benefits, such as the chance to have their students' work published in such places as *Bear Essential News*, in the City of Tucson street car leader boards, in special exhibits at the Poetry Center, and in our city-wide annual anthology.

### TO IMPLEMENT A WORKSHOP IN YOUR CLASSROOM:

1. Call or email us to set up a meeting so we can learn about your school.
2. Fill out an application and sign a memo of understanding.
3. Identify funding.
4. Schools sign final contracts and attend professional development workshop.
5. Workshops begin.