

Writers in Residence



Spring 2022

For the 49,000 youth confined in a juvenile facility in the US.

For the 2,200 youth confined in a juvenile facility in Ohio.

These youth have been separated from family and friends. Many of them don't feel seen, heard, or understood.

Their creative writing in this text rewrites the stereotypes and biases of a juvenile in detention.

This is for them.

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Property of Writers in Residence Library

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Mission

TEACH.

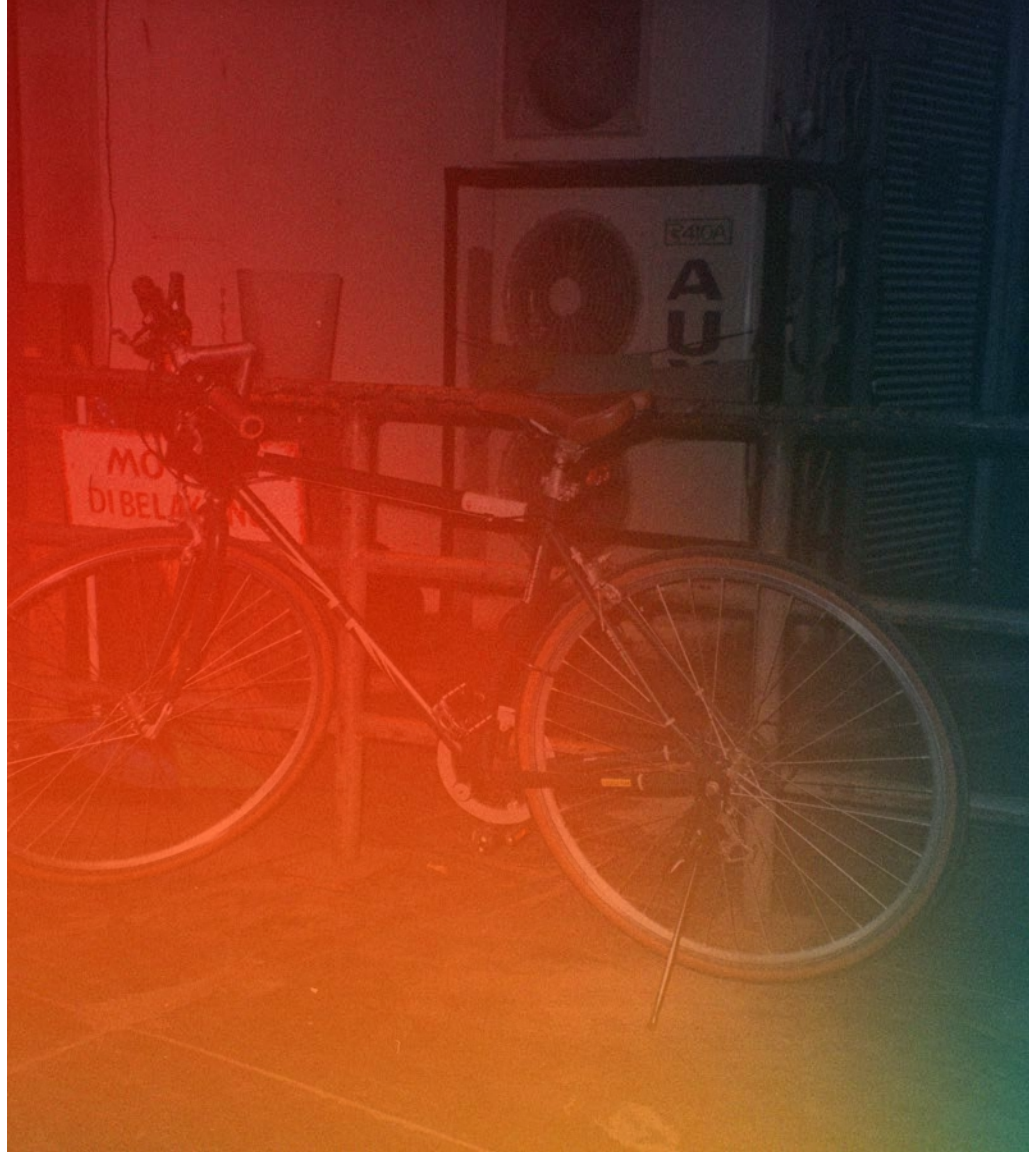
We teach creative writing
to youth who
are incarcerated.

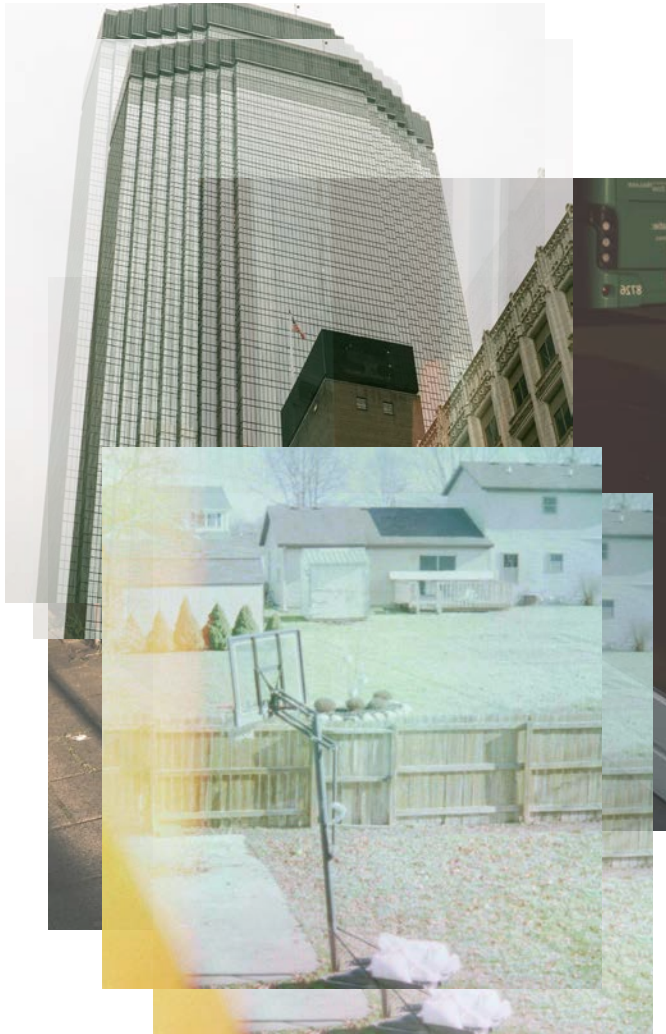
EMPOWER.

We empower our
residents' voices.

ASSIST.

We assist in their
re-entry.





Values

JUSTICE. We believe in creating an environment where justice becomes visible, where restoration from wrong is possible, where people are seen as more than their worst moments, where people can create a future not doomed to repeat the past.

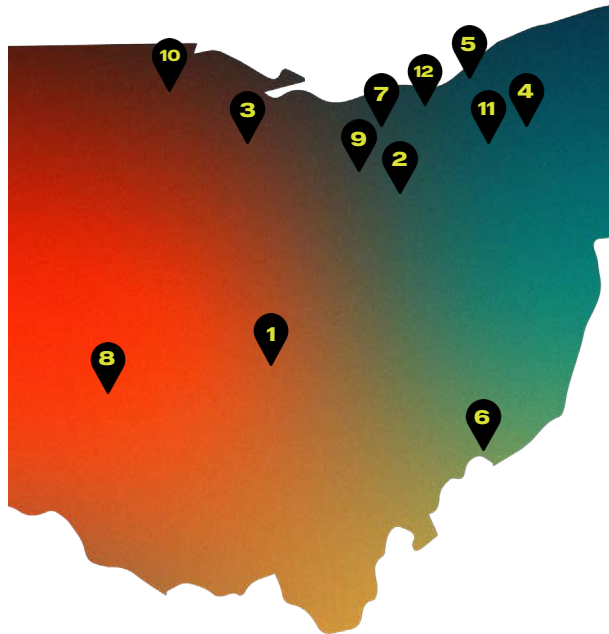
EMPOWERMENT. We believe that our residents can build their self-esteem, resilience, and power through working on their writing, their reflection, their communication, through the creative writing workshop experience.

DIGNITY. We believe that our residents deserve to discover and recognize their own dignity and self-worth through our creative writing workshops. We also believe that if we respect ourselves, our residents, and our student volunteers then we successfully lead by example.

COMMUNITY. We believe in the power of community. This means that we continually welcome and accept our residents into our communities because they belong to an environment that promotes individuality and empowerment, especially upon re-entry. We also believe in the creation of a collaborative atmosphere that amplifies all voices together in a spirit of mutuality and kindness.

RELATIONSHIPS. We believe in fostering genuine, strong, and long-lasting relationships as well as walking with our residents as they navigate the path to re-entry.

SCHOOLS



- | | |
|----------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. Capital University | 7. Oberlin College |
| 2. College of Wooster | 8. University of Dayton |
| 3. Heidelberg University | 9. Baldwin Wallace University |
| 4. Hiram College | 10. Bowling Green State Univ. |
| 5. John Carroll University | 11. Case Western Reserve Univ. |
| 6. Marietta College | 12. Cleveland State University |

Circleville JCF
 Montgomery County CAS
 Seneca County YC
 Portage Geauga County JDC
 Cuyahoga Hills JCF
 Cuyahoga County JDC
 Washington County JC
 Medina County JDC
 Cuyahoga County JDC
 Lorain County JDH
 Indian River JCF
 Wood County JDC
 Franklin County JDC

JUVENILE FACILITIES

Impact

To understand our impact on our residents, we survey them at every creative writing workshop.

These surveys give us quantitative and qualitative data so we can provide our residents with a high-quality program experience.

Our Creative Writing Workshop occurs in spring and fall seasons for 12-16 weeks. Each session runs for 60-90 minutes either in-person or remotely via Zoom or Teams and consists of 10-15 residents, 5-7 student volunteers, and 1 teaching artist. Then, we publish, showcase, and distribute chapbooks filled with our residents' creative writing inside juvenile facilities, on campuses, and throughout the local communities to raise awareness about the juvenile justice system.

Visit writersnresidence.org to learn more!

FY 2022

Average

78 residents
5 student volunteers
56 hours
\$1,680 valuation

Total

621 residents
36 student volunteers
449 hours
\$2,242 valuation
8 cohorts

Year to Date

Average

34 residents
7 student volunteers
82 hours
\$2,148 valuation
5 cohorts

Total

1,403 residents
195 student volunteers
2,356 hours
\$63,776 valuation
12 cohorts

Blue Scrubs, Orange Crocs, Infinite Wisdom

Bowling Green State University



Dear reader,

Even though we spent only four weeks at the Wood County Juvenile Detention Center piloting our Creative Writing Workshop, we were thoroughly impressed with every youth's thoughtfulness, generosity, and eagerness to participate.

The residents always came to our sessions ready to put their best foot forward and give the activity their best effort. We think their writing is excellent regardless, but it's even more impressive knowing that they were able to jump in with both feet and produce this chapbook in what only amounted to a few hours of meeting time! To hear the youth read their work aloud was always a gratifying experience. For example, the first session involved writing six-word memoirs and the residents generated so much detail and wisdom in such brevity. This is the inspiration behind the title of this chapbook, "Blue Scrubs, Orange Crocs, Infinite Wisdom."

We are not only filled with gratitude when we think about our experience but also excitement because the residents demonstrated a willingness to try something new and become vulnerable, which we hope they continue to do outside of our program.

Bowling Green State University
Cohort

Questions

What keeps you up at night?
Oatmeal could be a soup, you tell me.
Be the best or the richest?
Why do you wake up every day?
What drives you through hard times?
What can you do for yourself?
What makes you turn at night?
Did the French invent French Fries?
What is the best football team?

Music

Rio Da Yung OG goes hard period.
Music speaks to me like humans.
Avenged Sevenfold is the greatest.
Music makes me feel really free.

Untitled

Anonymous

She found herself, suddenly behind
The dark wall

Untitled

G

I wonder was nobody listening?
She tried to curtsy. No, I hope they
Remember...Alice

Untitled

D

Tired of sitting
Having nothing
Feel stupid
When suddenly
Very remarkable
Occurred
Then hurried to feet
Burning with curiosity
Fortunately in time
Again
Went straight on
Falling down a deep well

Untitled

Anonymous

Funny please- this New Zealand or Australia
Do you think you could manage
Miss very like answer

Untitled

Anonymous

She labeled disappointment
Alice tumbling fallen somewhere
That several schoolroom's knowledge
Practice but got thought

Untitled

Anonymous

She was dark white lamps long
Hall roof Alice she again
On the second time round little
She small
Longed to out of that

Lesson Learned

L

I could shut up, if I only knew how to begin,
To think, half hoping, a book of rules for
Shutting people up, remember the simple rules,
A red-hot poker will burn you, she had
Never forgotten that

Untitled

Anonymous

Alice was very tired of sitting by her sister and of having nothing to do.
She had peeped through the book but it had no pictures.

Untitled

Anonymous

She fell down
Then she looked at Alice
I said aloud several things
though this was not a very good opportunity
but thought they were nice grand words to say

Untitled

Anonymous

Alice jumped up to her feet, she looked
up it was dark overhead the white
Rabbit in sight

MLK

B

It was a good day
On the court
The basketball kept going through the net.
I was breaking them ankles.
Bang bang bang.
I thought them ankles were just broken.
I didn't know why everyone ran
Till I saw him lying on the floor
His white shirt stained and colored violets
Gunshot to the chest

Blue Collar

L

We are the people who wake up early
Go out in fields or out to sites

The people who work hard all day
Come home and work hard all night

We are the people who raise livestock
And the people who raise houses

We are the people who work like a dog.
For the people that they love most
Cause we know you gotta work
For the things you want and need
Most in our lives
But we also know, after a hard day's work
After we clean our hands and change our
Dirty clothes
The best thing for us is to sit by a fire
And be with friends and family.

Blue Collar Community

D

For my people who work 40 hours plus every week
Who don't complain when times get tough,
The people that do the back breaking labor that
Nobody else would consider doing,

For the people who come home with grit and dirt under their nails
Who just can't give up the hard hands-on work,
The ones who work in the trades by choice,
Who are told you need a college degree to be successful?
Even though that's not always true.
For the people who will retire by the age of 65,
And the ones who will be able to spend the rest of their lives fulfilled
To the ones who put in the hard work but can relax
For the second half of their lives

There's a lot that can be learned from the blue-collar community

A Choice

Anonymous

Music; like passion in my veins,
Like fuel for my heart
An escape from the pain;
A new place to start

For those who are hurt
For those who are lost
Embrace your pain
Let your light shine bright
Let your pain guide others
Through their most cold, dark nights

1, 2, and 3

Who do you wanna be?
You're more than your past or where you came
We can all reach the stars
Now where will you aim?

Advice

Always think before you say something.
Helpful, listen, key to success, kind.
The best is over the worst.
I lost a lot but when
I went to state I was
Happy with the losses.
It gets worse before it gets better.
Progress is the key to life.
Be the best version of you.
Be someone's safe place forever.
Îmi, place, să, ajut, pecor, cine /
I like to help anybody.
Keep your head up through everything.
You gotta be comfortable with yourself.
Îmi place să dau spaturi bune cuiva cand fare gresăli /
I like to give good advice to someone when he's made a mistake.
Pushing yourself takes skill and persistence
Keep my head up all times.

Life

Hard, easy, fulfilling, real, personality.
Violence is never the key.
Winning is not always the key.
I am bigger mentally than physically
Îmi, place, să, calotăresc, să, Îmi, fal pret /
I like to ride horses and...
You might be small, but mighty.
Do what you love, have fun.
Familia pentru mine În seomnă tot momă tată frati bunici /
Family means everything to me: siblings, parents, uncles, and grand-
parents.
Mistakes can be erased, they're not permanent.
Try my best to stay happy.
Football because I'm good at running.
I like to stay up late.

Love

Healthy, fun, joyful, complicated, respect, hard
Love never really worked out for real.
I wanted it to work but life goes on Fam.
I'm cool where I'm heading fam.
I wanna girl just ain't trippin' over it.
Being loved is all we need.
My heart is a sacred thing.
Always trying but not succeeding.
Love yourself, before you love another.
Îmi iubesc părinti frati bunici - prietenilor care /
I love my parents, siblings, grandparents, the friends who....
Îmi dă un drum bun - spre-viitor /
Love it gives me a path towards the future.
I was shattered, now I'm healed.

Food

Good, filling, hunt it, eat, digest.
I love Lee's chicken and pizza.
I love chicken bacon ranch everything.
Grilling lobster on hot summer days.
Îmi, place, or, ce, fel, de, mancare /
I like every food!
Eat what makes you want more.
Îmi place foarte mult mâncarea gătită /
I like warm home cooked meals very much.
Eating tacos while binging Stranger Things.
Pineapple belongs on the best pizzas
I hate eating ham and turkey.
Eating cookies while watching Longest Yard.
People go, but food is forever.

For My People Who Lost Themselves

G

For my people who lost themselves in loneliness, I
Assure you you're not alone. It seems not long ago
That we walked down the same road. In the
Distance those red and blue grow, you
Know what it means but you're scared to go home. As
You're in the cell alone I know you have no hope
But it doesn't end like this another community
Grows

For Living We Were Born

Circleville JCF Cohort

Dear reader,

We were really amazed at just how much the youth opened up to us, especially in a short amount of time together. We would talk about the dreams we had not only for ourselves but for our children and families too, and the communities filled with people and places that helped create who we are today. Everyone was motivated to contribute and support each other throughout the program.

For example, one of the creative writing workshops that sticks out to us the most occurred in week 4 when we discussed our parents and we realized that while they may have raised us, we don't have to be the same as them. Simple as it may sound, some of us had never confronted this idea directly until then. Moments like these were responsible for the great poetry that came out of the juvenile facility this spring because the youth who were there really worked for it.

The residents' high-level of perseverance, their innate ability to continue living despite everything in front of them and behind them, is an attitude that we saw reflected in a lot of the residents and in the poem "Life is Fine" by Langston Hughes: "I could've died for love—/But for livin' I was born," which inspired this chapbook's title. Despite whatever hardships they had faced, the youth had dreams and hopes for something out of their lives; they all refused to die because for living they were born, and they are going to make something out of that life they were given. Otherwise, they wouldn't have come to our sessions, and they wouldn't have written the poetry and prose that they did.

M4 Circleville JCF Cohort



Untitled

AC

I am a very handsome man.

Fun

Intelligent

Funny

Short

Where you are doesn't tomorrow.

I like a lot of food.

Do I want to be here?

Be your truest self, no one else.

Just let your heart take you.

Hyper, Handsome, Respectful

JS

Life is hard never give up

Eating food everyday gets you healthy

Brotherly love is a strong bond

Follow your dreams till the end

Can you overcome the struggle?

Untitled

AA

I am tall, skinny, intelligent, helpful, caring and loving

I'm lost then I'm found

Love is like a car ride, are you going to go on a road trip?

Life is a roller coaster

Some things are better left unsaid

Watch me

Untitled

TL

I am a very handsome man

I am a very smart man

I am a happy person, sometimes

I am a responsible person, always

I am a respectful person, always

I am a funny person, creatively

I am a creative man, mind wise

Do I like to educate others?

I use my humor to fit in.

Life

JM

Life!

Life is what you make it

Food!

Eat healthy and stay disciplined

Love!

I won't let someone hurt me

Advice!

Don't overstress what you can't control

Questions:

Why is it harder to be honest?

Untitled

JH

I am funny, handsome, and smart. Short, kind, responsible.

I am not weak

I strive to become a better me

I protect myself from getting hurt

When I fail, I use it as motivation

Untitled

ER

Life is a mess

Eat big, get big

Cold heart, warm body

The strong is not physical, but is mentally prepared

Love is a beautiful lie, death and despair is a painful truth

I Am a Good Person overall

EK

Life

I will never sell a dream

Food

I will eat a lot of food

Love

I won't trust no one who's fake

Advice

Always take your shot at life

Questions

Are you leaving or are you riding?

Untitled

AK

I am funny, hyper, dumb, chunky, respectful and fun.

Life is full of many mistakes

Always be yourself, not someone else

Life is like a puzzle book

Loyalty is the key to everything

We want food, please and thanks

My Neighborhood Life

AC

I am from listening to music to cope with pain

And barbeques for fun and games

Where hot dogs are cooked and made in a park on a beautiful day

I am from going to a Bengals game on a Sunday night to hoping nothing

bad has happened when you're here and seeing siren lights.

I am from neighborhoods, but you can be and accomplish anything you want.

Untitled

JS

You may see me cry but it's of happiness

Untitled

JB

Hyper, funny, smart, kind, respectful and responsible

Life

Your life is full of mistakes

Food

Eating healthy is a good habit

Love

If I open up, don't close me

Advice

Never try to be someone else

Questions

Who do you wanna be in ten years?

Untitled

JS

I am from where you see crimes getting made.

I am from the smell from the drugs in the air.

I am from the sound of cars driving by and gunshots.

Growing Star

AA

I am from a quiet neighborhood where it smelled like fresh cut grass
and you can hear and see brand new corvettes.

I am from a nice house surrounded by nice homes of all sizes

I am from where you talk with your friends and family and play call
of duty

I am headed to an even bigger house where I can work out, meditate,
sleep, and pray with a big family helping the future be better than me.

Lifestyle

AK

I am from where you see the streetlights on and don't care

I am from where you see tweaked walking around where you never
know what they're up to

I am from where you smell drugs and garbage

I am from where you hear loud cars and police chasing people that
were fighting

I am from Kings highway

Who I Am?

JB

I am from riding bmx and skateboards til it was dark.

I am from the smell and sound of flowing water and loud traffic.

I am from the sound of ambulances and police sirens all day from overdoses
and accidents.

I am from the Hocking Hills and all the tourist locations.

Untitled

JM

I am from where my dogs play in the backyard while I cut the grass, look-
ing over to see my daughter putting sand in her mouth from her sand pit.

I am from where taking care of my daughter is all I long for.

I am from where making good memories and eating ice cream with my
daughter.

Untitled

JS

Not to grow up so fast

Not to be a follower, be a leader

I Am What I Am

JH

I am from poverty, where you don't really know who to trust.
I am from a broken home, where all you can smell is drugs and see needles.
I am from a place where you hear gunshots, police sirens, and dogs.
I am from a place that doesn't define me.
I am from a place with no parents and I manage to get a meal.
I am from where I am.

Untitled

AK

How to get through life without using violence or illegal ways they did,
How to not quit and keep trying,
I wish she taught me how to take care of myself before everybody else,
I wish he taught me how to be everything

Hey Chubs,

It's okay to go through struggles but if you keep trying, you'll make it.
Just keep helping your family and try to make it out of brokism.

Untitled

AC

How to cook, drive, love, pursue my dreams,
how to lose, handle situations,
how to be better as a person,
how to raise a kid.

Untitled

JH

Hey,

I thought that you could maybe teach me how to be resilient, strong. How to love.

I thought that you could maybe teach me how to not give up when things get hard. I thought that you could teach me that it's okay to allow yourself to fail to pick yourself back up.

I thought you could maybe teach me not to have so much hate in your heart. I thought that maybe you can teach me it's not okay to be neglected.

I thought that maybe you could teach me to not allow depression to be your best friend. I thought that maybe you could teach me how to strive to be a better person each day and learn from your mistakes.

Untitled

AC

Hey, I thought that maybe you can teach me how to be kind and enjoy my childhood. To not be in the streets and to not have me in an environment where I don't feel safe to play on the porch.

Hey, I thought that maybe you could teach me how to be a man and how to be the perfect father figure for my kids to come and how not to be in and out of a child's life. Having them wonder when they're going to see their parents again.

Untitled

TL

Hey, I thought that you can maybe teach me how to be a kid and not have to rely on a gun to keep me safe because of the decisions I made beforehand. Maybe teach me how to be a successful employee/businessman so I wouldn't have to sell drugs to be my main source of income. As well as teach me to be a better leader. So, I could've taught my friends that went to an early grave to choose a different path instead of the one which let them 6 feet under.

Untitled

JB

You may see me cry
But the tears will be of happiness
You may see me sigh
But that will be of relief
You may see me exhausted
But that's because I'm trying
You may see me reaching out
But that's because I really need it
You may see me stressing
But that's because I'm being pushed
You may see me as a bad person
But that's because you don't know
You may see me struggling
But that's because life is hard

Thoughts

KC

Hey, I wish you could teach me to rely on school on sports and not the streets. I wish I was not so impulsive and more of a humble beast.

Untitled

JM

Hey, I thought maybe you could teach me that life doesn't always have to be so chaotic and exciting and that it is okay to be bored. Also, how to stop and think about your choices because some decisions I've made have had an impact in my life and if I would've stopped for a second to think about my choices and how my choices will affect me. I could've avoided a lot of pain I've caused to myself and others.

Untitled

AK

But I will not be sad
I'll put my hands up put the gun down
I'll have my toes curled and my feet straight
We'll have our struggles in life but we won't give up

Untitled

JH

You may be cry but I will never bend or fold
You may see me cry but I am not weak
You may see me cry because sometimes it's okay to cry

Untitled

JM

You may see me cry but that don't mean I'm weak
You may see the worst in me but that don't mean I'm bad
You may see as a criminal but I've overcome more than your average Joe
So, I see a warrior road to riches, here I go!

Untitled

ER

You may see me cry, you may see me falter, in this life that we live,
can't get this weight off my shoulders.

One moment we're alive, the next we are dead, when shall we realize
the beauty in our bitter end.

Life asked death, "why do people love me but hate you?"
Death said, "Because you are a beautiful lie, and I am a painful truth."

The strong is not the one who overcomes people with his strength, but
the strong is the one who controls himself while in anger.

The Prophet
Mohammad

Untitled

KC

Dear older me,
I'm proud of you for accomplishing
Being one of the more successful business-
Man in sales, man. I'm also proud of
you for buying your mom dukes the
mansion you wanted to buy her.
Dear younger me,
I'm proud of you for realizing everybody
ain't real and it's off the choices you
made changed me and got me where
I'm at today. I Love you Forever, demon!

Untitled

AK

For my people that supports me and care for me
For my family that got my back and don't give up on me
For me being the best guy I can be

Untitled

AK

My emotions were not allowed to be shown
And if they were you had to, say it was joy

Untitled

JP

The streets. . .not how they
was back when
I was out
of jail. . .These days
people shooting and
killing people 4
a name but won't
shoot or kill some-
body 4 reasonable
reason. . .Younger me. . .
thank you 4 some
of the situations
you put yourself
in if it wasn't
4 you I wouldn't be who i
Am 2 day. . .
To my future
self, I really
hope you did
what I had planned
4 you so you
can travel and find
yourself

Untitled

AC

You may see me cry
But that's better than crime
You may see me lie
But there's truth behind it

Untitled

KC

This is for my people who gave up a mind is a terrible thing to waste
This is for me

Untitled

AC

Dear Mariyon,
You're still learning, still becoming a man
And I'm sorry your life was so tragic
At a young age, but I promise it'll get
Better.

I'm also sorry you have to experience jail to open up
your eyes because if it wasn't for jail you'd probably be dead.
I'm sorry, but don't you be because I already went through
it for you.

Untitled

AC

My hands were told to be up to protect yourself
My body was told it must be elastic to pain and always get back to my
regular state
My emotions were not allowed to show so you won't seem weak but it's
okay to show your emotions and express your feelings

Untitled

AA

My hands were told to be a weapon
My body was told it must be a vest to the shot
My emotions were not allowed to show but I am just a laid back, relaxed,
chilled person

Untitled

JH

My hands were told to be used right
My body was told it must never bend or fold
My emotions were not allowed to come to light but what's in the dark
must come to light

Untitled

TL

You may see me cry but with every tear comes a laugh of joy

You may see me cry

Life

JB

My hands were told to be tools

My body was told it must be a temple

My emotions were told to be a safe, locked up and only I know the code but my safe has been cracked, the code has been exposed

Untitled

JS

My hands were told to be used wisely

My body was told it must be itself

My emotions were not allowed to let anyone in but time to let my loved ones in

Untitled

JH

This is for my west side people who taught me that you can't trust the people you call your friends

That our community is not like other people's community

This is for my Westside people

This is for Shiesty and that who would slime their own family out for money

This is for me

I had to teach myself the ins and outs of life and for nights I went without food and water

I am better than what people think I am

Untitled

TL

This is for my people who stay strong

This is for my people who loyalty never wavered during tough times

This is for my people who lost loved ones to the community but never lost their love in the community

This is for my people who learn to make money from a not so good hustle

This is for my people who don't judge the way others grieve for their fallen

Untitled

AC

This is for the community that made me
for all the people who passed in for their mothers persevering and staying
strong
for the beggars because they continue to prove people wrong
for me to continue to stay strong while locked up

Untitled

JB

For my people in Logan who didn't judge me and supported me
For my Muslim brother and sisters who put trust and Allah to lead us on
the right past
For my family who has been there too good and bad
For me being the best I can in life

Untitled

KC

My hands were to be steel
My body was told it must be invincible
My emotions were not around to be shown

Death Date Awaiting

JH

To Ones I Care About
Be yourself.

I love you and would do anything I could for
You Y'all could never do anything to make me
change, but I appreciate y'all even though y'all
gave up on me, but all is well, carry on.

To Ones Who don't know me
I'm trying to do right; I swear it's no one
to believe anymore for people I love, I miss
so much in so many people, but I can't be
happy 😞 Whose here? remember all great moments

To ones Who wanna kill me
Be my guest LOL
Because I'm going to do it when the times
Right anyway
Ha
Ha
You lose 😊

Thank You to my Younger Self

JH

Sometimes I get sad thinking about the things we been through, life was hard and still is, I'm sorry that I didn't know how to communicate back then, I'm sorry for not reaching out and asking for help when I needed it the most. I strive every day to become a better person and trust me it works depression is not my best friend anymore I'm leaning how to be happy now So, thank you for always being here for me through every difficult situation b/c it made me stronger 😊 thank you for not committing suicide.

Untitled

KC

You may see me cry but I will never give up at accomplishing my goals
Being the person my mom raised me to be

Our Tomorrow: Beauty in the Sunrise

Heidelberg University Cohort



Dear reader,

When we look back on our experiences, we remain grateful and honored for the chance to interact with the residents who trusted us and felt enough comfortable in the Creative Writing Workshop to share their stories on how life impacted where they are now. It was amazing to see these youth come out of their shells as we progressed through the program. One of our favorite moments this season involved music when the facilitator and the residents started talking about their favorite artists. We learned about so many new and talented musicians, and we were able to relate to each other through music. Then, another core memory that will carry with us related to sports where everyone debated about what activities are or aren't sports. The residents were so engaged! These experiences helped the youth look at certain topics and issues from a different perspective, which is exactly what we are asking you to consider while you read this chapbook because there is a little bit of everything in here, from aspirations to raps about food, no matter the topic, the residents wrote from their hearts.

It is important to understand that the youth may not have had the opportunity to put their thoughts onto paper before this program. It is important to also realize that their contributions mean a great deal to them because it captures a lot of their thoughts that go on inside their minds that they may not feel safe saying aloud yet. The youth were able to positively express their feelings, accomplishments, and somber experiences. Our Creative Writing Workshop is a free space for the residents to release their emotions through poetry or prose.

For many of us, writing is a very positive practice of self-exploration and learning. We are thankful to have witnessed the residents learn this skill for themselves. It was truly inspiring to see how acceptance of someone's creative works made them feel more confident and more willing to participate and share again. This experience has not only allowed us to grow as people by letting us see from different perspectives and find confidence in our abilities, but it has also taught us to be more encouraging and that the best support sometimes comes from just listening.

Heidelberg University Cohort

Untitled

OK

Playing football brightens my day
Boy give me one let me say
I will play for days

Untitled

JM

Freedom is my precious
The flag they paid for it all
Will never see home

Untitled

CV

Noodle soup good for soul
I got heartburn bad chest ache
Milk made pain vanish

Untitled

AE

Before night comes in
Every good day ends in sunset
With a good night kiss

Untitled

GC

When playing video games, there are good and bad players. One day I met a person who was very bad at the game. I decided to give him tips and teach him how to be better and more respectful during in-game matches. I felt like I was a helpful person in the gaming community.

Another time I was feeling positive power was when I "saved" a slightly hurt bird and helped protect it until it could fly again. I felt power over its life and used that to save it.

Untitled

AE

I feel the most power when I'm the one in charge of the house or the kids or everything else. Growing up I was always left alone so I had all the power in the house. I could do whatever I wanted without getting in trouble. I did this from 5 years old to 15 years old. If I wanted to walk around town at 3 AM I would walk around town.

Untitled

BB

One time when I felt powerful was when I got something that none of my brothers got and I felt like I had power over who got to play with it and when they would get to play with it but then after teasing my brothers I lost my power over that toy.

Untitled

CH

Space is simply
bad for a frog
ribbit

Untitled

DG

A time I felt positive power was when I got out of the youth center last time because I was ungrounded from everything because my parents thought I needed a "fresh start" and I felt in control because we were getting along and I had an opportunity to change my life for the better. Obviously that wasn't the case considering I'm here again but everyone deserves a second chance I guess.

That Day's Plan

AE

Me and my friends were hanging out about to order some food when 2 planes wrecked outside my house. We called the police. They hid in the plants. The pizza guy brought bottled water and pop with caffeine. After we finished eating, we went shopping. We bought shoes and hair dye. When we got home we watched TV and played the game system.

Ball

OK

One time me and a high school baseball player were playing baseball with no cap and that is no cap.

Space Farm

BB

I'm in the atmosphere outside of earth in space I see
a pig fly by in a fighter jet with chicken little in a
Space suit
we are free to be
here we praise to see
a farm go by.

Got me Bent

NB

My brother said he's gonna
Wake me up early and I told
Him you got me bent don't
Even bother. The next day
He told me he's gonna wear
My shoes to school I told
Him you got me messed
Up wear your own shoes

Us Thugs in Space

Anonymous

I am floating in space
my brother throws
a football at me
and then I broke it off
an asteroid look like football
and our plant is rainbow
colored.

I am from Cincinatti Ohio

CH

I am from a place where there's a lot of bandos
I am from a place where you walk out the house
and hear gunshots. I am from a place where it's kill or be
killed. I am from where there's high speed chases and
robbing people at gunpoint. I am from where you gotta stay
on yo pivot

Bussin' Days

CW

I'm in a very bussin' bussin' mood today. Off to bussing my kids to
school today, so they're not late.

Untitled

AB

I am from where I see
cars driving fast. Food smells in
the air and hearing cars
Driving

Untitled

AS

I am from walking in abandoned buildings
where no one would find us.
I am from a place where u can't trust
ur neighbor cause they will rob u
without a second thought.

Untitled

NB

Mom you left me too soon
It was way past noon
I stayed by your side even when you was blue
I stay loyal, so imma live it up for you

The Knockout

CH

the clock was ticking
I had my guard up
there was 1 minute
left he swung I
weaved his left
hit em with a
right hook then
Dropped back he
was stumbling he
started leaking
then he dropped
his guard I
came in and
dude with a
2 piece put
em to sleep

I am from... Tiffin

NP

I am from a place where bullies thrive

I am from a place of fighting

I am from a place of death

I am from two parent doing their best

I am from a place of crime

Untitled

CH

Smack 'em wit the pistol left his forehead

Wit a knot ride for my dawg like

Like bike pegs try to run

Then both legs get shot

Neva' changed up on the gang always

Kept it 100 if you my brother then I

Got you and you can call me I'm

Coming I gotta I gotta make it out the city I came down with that money

I am from... American St

MM

I am from speed chases and being held at gunpoint.

I am from where if you have the wrong color on it

would get bad. I am from where Police barge in

homes looking for people who have warrants. I'm from

where a single mom has to take care of 5 boys.

I am from living the fast life

I am from Detroit MI.

Untitled

CH

Wind chilled

Windbreakers shrieked

Sneakers squeaked

On the court

Hands were sweating

Acing the ball

rackets slipping

Untitled

AB

Hike the ball was snapped
I hit my block and started
my route which was a right
angle he faked it to the wide out
and threw to me I caught it
and took off CB got low but
I got lower and smoked him

Untitled

ZC

I was told there was a boxing match with me that night. I was not prepared.
The guy was 23. He had been boxing for 4 years. I had only been fighting
for a year.
Thought I was going to lose but I put bruh on his flat. I beat him by 3 points.
He was my weight, little shorter than me.

Al's Mask

AB

Mom. Everything is okay.

Untitled

XA

Honestly it just gives me
Something to do
And allows my lungs to
Clear out
it takes my mind off of
My current situation
it allows me to get healthier
for the time being

Emotions

NB

It's okay to show your
emotions, they don't need
to hide. Sometimes they
need to be let loose, so
they can be revived.

It's important to allow
yourself to feel them,
If you don't you may
become confused, just
let your emotions
flow and everything
will be mellow.

Back to the Cellblock

AB

Fast-forwarding time to pass this hard time
Clock never stops to keep ya head up
No evidence so I gotta beat the case
Little Debbie's is a must on my commissary

Invisibility

XA

If I could have any power it would be invisibility
I'd turn invisible and be gone for eternity
No one would ever see me again and I would just mind my business
I wish I could do it and just say good riddance

Untitled

CW

You be coming in my room like a butterfly
That hatched out of a cocoon, sometimes
I want to smack you with my shoe.
But I don't want to get hit by you.

A Letter to Her

ZC

When I talk to my girl I pretend to act like I am okay
and that I am not hurting inside and that
is why I always have a smile on my face
and how I really feel about her and let her
know how I'm feeling and my thoughts.

Untitled

J

When I talk to my mom I pretend to be okay
so I don't take time out her life that she
won't get back. I want to tell her how I
feel inside but I'm afraid she'd brush it off.

Truth

XS

When I talk to my family I pretend to be happy
so they don't have to worry about me or my feelings.

Thoughts and Truths

AE

You may see yourself as small and weak,

I see you as big and strong.

You see yourself as fat,

I see you as the perfect weight.

You think you're ugly,

I know you're beautiful.

You think you're stupid,

But I think you're very smart.

Through Their Eyes: Life from Another Perspective

University of Dayton



Dear reader,

When we think about the creative writing workshop this spring, our minds flood with many memories! We always looked forward to spending time with the residents and the other student volunteers every week.

For example, we started sharing our highs and lows of the week at the beginning, which strengthened our relationship with each other, and one of the residents said her low was being denied a release from the juvenile correction center. Instantly, this news, this reality check made our stomachs stop. Everything felt

so real because we realized that at a young age, these girls deal with countless adult-like challenges and continue to do so. You should know that these girls didn't have stereotypical childhoods; they had scary experiences that forced them to grow up faster than most.

At first, none of us knew what to expect at our first session but the residents were eventually willing to open up and be real about their lives. It made sense because we were outsiders, but they made us feel welcome. No matter what they were going through though, the residents used their time either writing from their authentic self or telling us stories from their life. They gave their all to this experience. This vulnerability allowed us to see the world from a different point of view and create a community of different backgrounds.

We are very grateful for this opportunity and are proud of who the residents are. There are different walks of life in this world, but we have learned that we all have more in common than we think.

University of Dayton Cohort

P.S. Want to also thank Ms. B because she was so much more than a staff person but more so a friend to these girls. They looked out for her just as much as she looked out for them.

Untitled

NR

I am not proud
I feel I let my mother down
I never met my father
People never really knew me
They felt "why bother?" I know my smiles lit up the room
I know my jokes were funny to you
But at the end of the day none
Of it matters.
I tried
I tried to make myself beautiful
I wanted to be peaceful at my last moment
I hope I spent it with you
But hope never got me far

Failure

E

If you fall pack your bags and never come back
If you fall you feel how it feels to feel hopeless
If you fall get back up and feel your success
If you think you might try your best and forget the rest.

Untitled

JB

Those times I wish I could
Have opened my eyes and
Realized that all she wanted
was the best for me. She always
Tole me to never put my thoughts
To rest, and never be the one
To be treated less. Now my
Time is almost up and I am
The one who gets
Treated the worst. Now its
Time to say goodbye to what I had
Left behind. Mom I'm
So sorry for you to see me like
This. This my last trip I have in
Mind.

Untitled

ML

My heart can't beat no more beats
I been stranded in a world with great regrets
I wish I could have handled my fate
But I am the devil's bait
I know I'm gonna be free but me remembering the rapes and the drugs
And I'll never forget all the hugs
And possibilities that came before me
But tonight you will see that I'm just as perfect as can be

Goodbye

JM

I'm sorry I'm leaving now
I wish I could of accomplished me being a legend
I'm sorry I'm leaving so soon
Please don't cry it's a full moon
But my time has come
But my time has come
But at least I left you with my words.
Leave me never forgotten
Don't keep me hidden in a staken

Peer Pressure

ML

Peer pressure is okay
I mean they only want to play
But sometimes they end up being your bae
Or not and they take advantage of you
Then boom I learn that I am more than a piece of a**
But more like a piece of class and my body is a temple
Never nothing less

Peer pressure is classy as can be but listen to yourself
They only want you for your body
Nothing more nothing less
Then you realize you're more than just somebody lil hoe or something less
You're a temple and your mind is tiny flashes of success

Untitled

EM

5: I miss my grandma
7: She is my home, heart, and soul
5: I love her, very much

Untitled

NR

If you hurt me I'll hurt you back

I remember the first time I felt rejection, it was something so painful that it gave me motivation, it gave me motivation to hurt you, even though I knew it was wrong, I made you cry, I made you feel pain and after learning better I felt worse for ever releasing agony no matter how bad I hurt

Goodbye

KH

Never in my life would I think that I would say sorry

But I'm sorry mama I'm sorry for all the nights you had to stay up wondering about me

But it had to take me to leave that house of chaos to grow up and see me for me

Talents I never knew about. The pain and the blame I let out.

I forgive those two men for hurting me but I don't think I can forget

I'm gonna lay in my casket knowing I let go all my struggles and regrets

Untitled

JB

My hands were told to be like Muhammad Ali's because of my size and the way I looked. I was taught to be more of a lover and not a fighter. I was told to wear my clothes more tight because of the way my body looked. I just wanted to fit in to what society wants me to be and look like but I cannot seem to be what everyone wants me to be because I am me!

Untitled

JB

I do not owe you what society wants me to be. I do not owe you an explanation of why my body looked the way it looks.

But today, this is the part I love the most... my beautiful chocolate skin. Every curve on my body. My heat damaged natural hair. Those are the parts I love the most.

Anger

ML

My anger is like a burning tree with TNT underneath. It is ready to blow life ain't worth the anger, always remember to have faith and hope.

Untitled

TP

My cries were told to be withheld.

Getting my head pushed to the dashboard while he drove.

Wasn't taught to say no and let my tears go.

I sucked them in and never let them go.

My emotions were between a brick wall, I wasn't bold
enough to say no.

I thought he loved me, or that's what I was told?

My whole damn life I never let love show, because I was
taught to never let emotions show. But I did and grew big.

Came over the fight and left a pig.

No man shall never beat me till I'm blue, I'm allowed to cry
rather it's in front of you, you, or you.

Letting my screams out, just a big a** shout. Learning new
things as I chase old dreams. That wasn't taught to me.

How My Color Helped Me

NR

Which me will survive?

I'm gay not Bi

I'm a woman

And I'm of color

Which me will survive.

Untitled

JM

I was raised to not

Ask for help

I won't let it break

Me down I want to melt

Seeing my mama pour

Down tears before she

Ask for help

She missed out on

A couple bills she

Looked me in my eyes

And told me she be

In the ground before

She call grandma and

Them. No being loyal put

Me in bad situations

Next time i'm going to

Turn the other way no

Hesitation

Untitled

JM

I do not owe you an apology for my dark melanin skin,
The shape of my body are the places I been
I love the skin that I'm in
The Fro that I wear
But today I love this part the most
I SEE me
I'm not hidden like a ghost
My skin is the biggest approach

I do not owe you an apology for my dark melanin skin,
The shape of my body
Are the places I been
I love the skin that I'm in
The Fro that I wear
But today I love this part the most
I SEE me
I'm not hidden like a ghost
My skin is the biggest approach
But today I love this part the most

My Sound

NR

I'm in love with music. I fell in love with music at 13. I watch my favorite artists do their shows for hours. I hang posters on my walls in every house I live in. I get every update on music every chance I can get.

I'm so passionate about music, I listen to type beats just to get an idea of what I want to write later. I read the dictionary to learn new meanings. I go to the thesaurus to find sentences of the word.

I can't wait to see my fans cry to see me. I can't wait to jump off stages into the crowd. I can't wait for people that have never met me in person, love my spirit.

I'm so passionate about music that I carry it with me everywhere.

I want people to feel everything I been through in one verse. I want people to know I'll always be there when they pick up their phone.

Untitled

NR

I do not owe you perfection
I know I am beautiful
Am I perfect is a great question

I try my best
I don't want no test

Because I do not owe you perfection

Passion

JB

My passion is fixing things that are broken. It could be cars, children or teens, anything that falls between those lines. I would like to fix cars and find cars that nobody uses and fix them up. I would like to foster children any age because I was 5 ½ years old when the system took me from my parents. I would like to show them love and affection that no one has ever showed them before. I know how it feels to be misunderstood. And feel unwanted. I know the pain and the struggle that these kids been through maybe even more. Everyone needs somebody. Nobody should be alone no matter what circumstance.

Untitled

KH

Hey, I thought maybe you could teach me
how to recognize the fake ones from
the real ones or maybe how to say
no when I'm being mislead from
someone, damn I thought it would
be easy to think about the things
anglea didn't teach me. Oh but
you taught me how to get or
find a substance when s**t
ain't easy. Don't forget the big one
rule. Never cry. If you're hurting
inside go take a ride or go to
Five Guys. I want to thank
you for not showing me the
things you should have showed
me. I can teach myself
and my unborn kids
what is right but
that's what I just
taught myself

Untitled

ML

I am from where kids running around trying to get out the place
they call home like me, I am from where families only
come together and have fun when someone dies. The
smell of charcoal, barbeque, and ribs in the air people
shooting dice on the side of the house. I am from where
my brother calling on a recorded collect call phone from
the pen. I am from a mother who risked her life for her
kids until she died. I am from a place where
people houses get shot up and Black kids killing
other Black kids I am from...

Untitled

JD

I am Light skin where it's not hard to live life but when they find out who
I really am then that's when it's time to get hard. I am a gay woman from
the ghetto I don't have it easy just cause I'm light skinned, don't mean I
don't get put through s**t. I am black, just cause I'm a lighter version
don't mean nothing.

Untitled

JD

I thought you can teach me not to get into the streets and to make my own
choices, that I really don't have to do other people's plans. I wanna make my
own choices. I wanna do what makes me happy, I wanna live my kid life. I
don't want to be grown yet, I just wanna life life to succeed.
I thought you can teach me money don't bring me happiness, that just
cause you get treated like s**t don't mean I have to treat people like s**t.
I wanna teach myself how to love and how to be me. How to choose your
own life, loyalty over everything for me. I don't want to be the old me I
wanna be a bigger me.

Untitled

NR

Hey, I thought maybe you could teach me how to rap without being off
drugs, I thought maybe you could teach me hoe to be a Nascar driver, I
thought maybe you could teach me how to be happy.
Hey, I thought maybe you could teach me how to stop running from all
my problems, how to stop running to drugs, how to walk away.
And if you already taught me how to see the world for what it is, how to
not forget what happened as a kid, and to forgive, then you can teach me all
the other things on my list.

Untitled

NR

I am from a place where you hear Beyoncé in the car, and kids dancing
to music happily,

I am from a place where you taste Kool-Aid bags and pickles every day,

I am from a place where you see a kid on the floor watching the same
cartoons over and over again,

I'm from a place where you see everyone from the hood in one house,

I'm from a place where you smell breakfast every morning on Sundays,

Bar-B-Q grills every 4th of July,

I'm from a place where you have to have your mothers touch every day,

A place where you play tag in the middle of the night

Untitled

ML

I am passionate about starting my group home because I been in the
system for almost 3 years and nobody ever listened to me about anything
I said and I want the kids to know I'm listening and I'm here for you and
I won't leave you stranded like they left me. I want kids that have PTSD,
trauma, or anything that they have I want to help them with everything
and my group home will provide everything like therapy

Voices of the Unheard

Medina County JDC



Dear reader,

After being remote all last year, we were finally able to be in person with the residents again! Every week when we arrived there were always residents willing to talk to us; not only willing, but excited. Some sessions had a lower energy than others because the residents were rather shy and reticent to talk the first time we met. Week after week though, they were able to open up and even share some of their work with us. This made us feel like we were there for a reason, like we were waiting to see them, and they were waiting to see us.

When we think about this cohort, we will remember all of the growth and smiles along the way. We will also remember all of the bonds we created with the residents, interacting with them at the tables and learning about their friends, families, and thoughts on the writing prompts. We were so glad that we had the opportunity to be a listening ear for them.

You should know that each resident has put themselves and their truth into these published pieces. There was a great deal of patience, critical thinking, and great conversations behind each contribution. Their work was created in a timely manner. Residents only have less than an hour to create an original piece. Because of this, the resident's work is urgent, deserving of an outlet, and deserving of a listener. The residents loved the comedic writing and rapping workshops; they wanted to keep their writing lighthearted

for the most part. If they did write about sensitive topics, it seemed to be expressed through rhyme and with a fun rhythm. A lot of our residents are also amazing artists and had a great time drawing what they were feeling, transforming the workshops to explore other forms of expression rather than writing.

After working with nearly every resident by the end, we saw all of their personalities and learned about their various passions. Through this, we were able to see who and what they truly cared about, and the impact these interests had on their life in and out of the detention center. Their writing serves as an outlet to express these feelings, and when you read their writing, you will see this too. We are most grateful for the face-to-face interactions that the resident's shared with us, for their willingness to try something new, and for becoming part of their routine. Being able to come consistently allowed us to get to know the residents. Not only was a relationship established, but we are able to see our lessons sink in each week. To see their perseverance and drive to turn their lives around was truly inspiring. Their transparency and overall kindness have uplifted our spirits! The residents came from very different backgrounds, and we collectively shared our experiences to realize that we are really not that different. Everyone is struggling through their own battle, and writing allowed us to express this and connect to each other.

MI Medina County JDC

Untitled

S

I listen to music every day on the outs.
Music makes me happy because it
helps me just let go. And if I
could meet a couple of my favorite
artists, I would thank them for their
help through things. Music helps me
like escape and feel good. It helps
me feel more alive during tough
times.

Untitled

ND

I am Tall, Creative, Chill, Smart.
I am acting like myself.
I have trust issues with others.
I hate using pencils, prefer pens.
I have learned from my failures.
I work on progress with everything.

Untitled

MW

I was chilling at home listening to
Youngboy like any other day. When I got a
call from bro saying he was about to
get jumped. I rushed over, adrenaline
already pumping, knowing what's about to go down. I
hopped out of the car and dove straight
in, starting with my lucky right hook
on the first dude I see, he instantly falls
to the street, clutching his jaw. Just then
I read my surroundings, 4 guys total, 3
still pummeling my bro. I reach an adrenaline
calm and rush the next guy I see, instantly
knocking him out with a blow to the back of his head.
That's when they take in my presence and hesitate.

Untitled

When I want to have a good time I call
up some of my friends and ask what the
move is, I'm just trying to do something!
We all get in Marr's car and go to
this girl's spring break party.
We all roll up and there's like
30 people there already, we could
hear the bass from down the block.
We go in and know the cops are going to roll
sooner or later, I walk around to say hey
and get to having a good time
and I'm having a good time, and I'm just
chilling and I hear sirens, I get
up to leave, and I get arrested
that same day.

Untitled

P

Zach is a normal kid that likes to play basketball.
Every day after basketball Zach goes
to his room and sleeps. Will Apollo become a god again?

Untitled

DB

In the morning I helped my mom clean around the
house and help clean the living room.
Also, I have an adorable kitten named Angel Strips Dempsey,
but I don't exactly like to clean the litter box.
When I go outside, I either ride my bike with
my friends or we jump on the trampoline together.
The other thing is soon I will have my own
vehicle to drive around my mom, or places to go
or want to visit. But while I'm at home,
I'm up in my bedroom watching "YouTube"
on my TV and eating either pizza, Hot Pockets,
or spaghetti, or grilled cheese sandwich with
tomato soup and once I'm done, I grab my
phone and earpods and go downstairs to
do the dishes while listening to music
and when I'm done, I watch TV and
go to bed for the night!

The Real Life

XB

1. I am loved, hungry, tired, funny.
2. Just trying to catch a vibe.
3. Chicken wings, extra sauce, yes please.
4. I love that I am bold.
5. Do not come to jail ever.
6. When will I go home again?

Untitled

CR

I am athletic, fun, strong, fast, competitive, hard-working.

Live by today, die by tomorrow.

If you live life with fear, you won't do things you want to.

You do not have to like me or respect me, just don't disrespect me.

how do you expect me to love you if you don't love yourself?

loyalty or love?

All is not lost

KS

I am very loud, short, fun.

Love- everything in and nothing is given.

Advice- Lesson studied subject, forgotten to do again.

Questions- lays or lies.

Untitled

XB

I always like Fall best

the smell of leaves

as they turn from green to yellow and red

the cool breeze while walking with friends

the taste of pumpkin pie

trick or treating of dusk

the sound of screams and laughter

as you walk through haunted houses

skating through campus, vibing to music

the parties that shake the block

Untitled

CR

I always like Summer and Fall
Best
You can wake up early
and get ready for the day
not knowing what you're going
to do with your friends, But
always find a way to fulfill
your summer at the end. Then,
Fall you get a feeling of good
vibes fun things to do
just get a feeling you
can't explain.

Untitled

ZP

I am tall, exhausted
rather be on top or below?
Would you sacrifice everything to achieve happiness?
I am very exhausted in life.

The Story of my Life

GZ

1. In school I'm small, not dumb.
2. In jail I have no choice
3. I hate kids, but I'm one
4. When will I go home again?

Fall Frenzy

KS

I always like Fall
best you have
Halloween parties
with your friends
My birthday
Places around
the decorated
houses, dogs roam
free in the
fields, pizza,
pumpkins, and subs
Fresh haircuts.

Untitled

ZP

I always like summer best, the walking past 12 am, the warmness in the air, entertainment with friends sitting at the pier, listening to music, driving around.

Super Summer

CW

I always like summer
the best, you can
always drink
slushies from
Circle K, lunch
from Taco Bell
and get stuff from
Dollar Tree. While
listening to dogs
barking, birds
chirping, and police
sirens and all you
smell is dinner,
flowers, and
trash on garbage
day.

Untitled

SC

I always like summer best, you can always go to the park or hang out at home or go to the library. You can always hear dogs and sirens and engines revving. You can almost always smell drugs.

Fall Times

GZ

I always like Fall best.
The smell of smoke
and the sound of dogs
makes me feel at home
I walk to GetGo
and see a Junkie,
he asks for a dollar
to buy a Slim Jim.
I see a cop,
he says Hello.
I go home
and hear my mom,
she's yelling for my sister
and I go to sleep.

Untitled

ND

I always like winter best because
I get to hit people and friends with
Ice balls and because it does not smell
terrible and it is fun to play in the snow and get to help shovel the snow
and get cars unstuck.

Untitled

KS

The officers watch
as kids write, time ticks slowly,
irritating me

Untitled

KS

Sitting on a cold seat
as loud, broken heater hums
films on the TV

Untitled

XB

Tasty chicken wings
The hot sauce dripping from chicken
Plus ranch, tastes so good

Untitled

MA

The cold air stabs every
Individual hair on your neck.
Stale air leaves our unsatisfied
breath. Then, all you can notice
is the uncomfortable stillness.

Tables

DW

The cold metal tables
surround the room
many peoples' voices
fill the room.

Back to the Cellblock

DW

The cell door closes
leaving me to silence and
the thoughts in my head

Untitled

ZP

Stagnate air, same walls, limited windows
Stagnate air fills the sand covered room with limited windows
City lights strung on the:
Sky view when the night is dark
and eerie off the rooftops.

Untitled

CR

I say how I feel
you go run to your friends and tell
cannot risk you again

Untitled

IL

Some days the food is terrible, some days its manageable
People in here act like they're about you.

Untitled

IL

Following my birthday
Loud knock on my door so familiar
Snow covered my slippers
fridge is full of food

Untitled

ND

There are too many bricks and metal and doors
Hearing the doors unlock and slam close is very
loud and annoying. This place feels stuffy and
has stale air.

Untitled

ND

I can do taxes
I am a calculator
I hate accounting

Untitled

ND

This place is very stale
The doors are very obnoxious
and I hate this place

Untitled

BM

Brick walls.
Officers.
Doors.
Volunteers.
Big TV.
There's a lot of Brick walls.
A lot of people too.

Untitled

MR

Once we went to Florida and my aunt took
me to the beach] And we saw baby turtles hatching.
It was so interesting] to me. My baby nephew brought
a baby turtle back] to the hotel and tried to
keep it as a] Pet. It did not go very well for him.
I] reached my arm in the bucket to pick up the] baby
Turtle. Then, we went to church and preached.]

Untitled

AJ

I went to the park at a sunny day and
the sunshining was bright with hidden
clouds or fun feeling.

Untitled

IL

Getting into drugs, and learning the neg effects
Getting out of a 2-year relationship
Putting more effort in school

Untitled

DB

Ye who dare compare you to bad wine.
Ye shall get the wrath of the Dragon.
She shall get a horrid wrath of time.
They shall get to go on a wagon to thy.
Thy shall go to fine, they shall get it.

Untitled

CW

Rollercoaster make me feel so alive
When on rollercoasters i feel nervous
After on the rollercoaster i strive
To get everyone to ride with us.

Untitled

KS

Music makes me feel alive and complete
Lana Del Rey is my favorite singer,
I like music when driving down the street
her voice touched my soul, and it lingers.

Foster Care

DW

From the outside looking in its not bad,
but let me tell you it makes me pretty sad
that people cannot see the pain hidden in me
my life controlled by an outside force
my caseworker will never let me be
moving from place to place never, a steady course
moving all across the state of Ohio.
I've seen all sights, but now they don't interest me.
I just wish I could go home and see my family.
Its' been too long since I've seen my dad
Sometimes I think I forget who he is
I can't wait until I'm 18, then I'll be free
finally going home to see my family.

Untitled

XB

Time I broke my arm
Eating lunch first day of high school
Not wanting to be here

Untitled

ND

I enjoy hanging with my friends
until the day ends
I hate learning
but we are always believing
in each other to the end
because we are friends
until we die,
but now I have to say goodbye

Untitled

KS

A singer thought she was
the best pop singer, but she went
to a studio and they
told her she sucked, but she felt
amazing, so she wasn't convinced and
got her music out there,
but it ruined her whole
life because her voice sounded
like a dying whale
THE
END

Untitled

MP

My baby needs me,
and I need my baby
I'm 8 months and feel like
I'm the size of a wrecking ball
And I'm locked in a tiny box

Untitled

AS

I need to go to church

Untitled

NC

On that lonely day poor hearts bled and wept
I swear this stupid (s-word) makes me so mad
promises that were made and were not kept
rest in peace to my stupid f-ing dad
you made my poor mom cry so f-ing hard
you killed yourself and left us high and dry
you act like you were just a sack of lard
left us lonely, did us wrong, and made us cry

Untitled

AJ

Scared cheer paint

Ball throw

Whistle

Catch

Untitled

CW

A student got expelled for spray painting the whole school red and purple. The student is upset because she won't be able to go to her dream schools. Her parents are angry because they have to pay for everything to be replaced & painted again. The school board is disappointed because they have to cancel school for 2 weeks which makes other students' parents upset and angry. The student who did spray paint the school is also disappointed because she lost all of her friends. Her friends are mad and think she's dumb for doing that.

The End

Untitled

DB

Thou is a mother, that has no'in' power,
compared to her husband, But thou has leftith
thou mother. Thou mother is grieving for herself
and her kids. She'ith had no power because
thou was in an abusive relationship. But not thou
mother have power. Thou mother becomes a
motivational speaker. Thou mother now is giving
other people power. She loves it.
The End!

Untitled

XB

It's easy to feel hopeless
because I'm locked up.
But it's better to feel hopeful
because it helps keep the calm.
The best isn't always easiest
because you have to see
from another perspective
when you just feel trapped
in your own.

Untitled

CR

A lot is going on
people showing fake love
start to act without thinking
start watching people more close
friends start distancing that they both hangout with
start thinking who did it
when finds out who did it get back
But people don't understand why
can't vent to someone again
asking could he have saved her
asking why him
starts fights without a reason
to get the anger out

Untitled

XB

Mustard sandwich, the way you ruin my lunch.
I would rather eat bleach on my Captain Crunch.
The bread always breaks because it's too old
with blues and green, Is that mold?
When I leave, no more mustard, no more soy.
These thoughts always bring me joy.

Curfew

DW

Going home at the end of the night
Curfew comes early, which brings me no joy
Time moves quick on a night like this,
But on the day of my release
time moves slow, bringing frustration
But on the time of my release,
Comes immediate joy.

Untitled

ND

Every day I try to get out of this house
Every day my mom and dad are always fighting
and every day I feel like I am always in the
middle of it. Every day when I get home
my dad always yells at me and makes
me feel worthless and he always beats
me when I don't even do anything wrong.
Every day when I go to school, they see
that my back is bruised, and I am too scared
to tell them what really happened. I
hope that everything will get better.

The Story

DW

I ran the streets like you wouldn't believe
I did years of time by the time I was 17
Sitting back in the cold cell block
wishing I never wrapped my hand around
that glock.

Ever since then I've gone downhill.

I'm just glad I'm here now.

Given a chance to get my life together.

A chance to make my future better.

I dropped out twice, finishing was
something I never thought I would do.

I got goals of things I want to do

But seeing my son is at the top of the list.

I don't want him to see me in chains,

so, I am going to take this opportunity

to change to spare any pain.

Untitled

NC

I feel so horrible

I feel so unable

to help my friend.

I feel her pain

I share her sorrow

there is a plane

In which I borrow

And take her on a flight

to ease her feelings

even though we were in a fight

I share with her my mother's teachings

We fly past hills

We see a cemetery

She tells me her friends overdosed on pills

She breaks down crying

and I keep trying

to ease her pain

Untitled

NC

Dad!
I'm sad
I'm so mad
You piss me off
Why did you do that
You hurt me beyond healing
I can't shake this feeling
I don't want to feel a thing
until I meditate
and then I elevate
I escape my own head
I'm lying in my own bed
But honestly, I'm in the sky
Waving my old feelings, goodbye

Untitled

AL

My Po sent me to jail
and so, it was a fail,
but in here I get to see Mrs. Jarvis
who gives me hope for my future

Untitled

CR

People don't understand
So, i feel frustrated
parties with personality like me
Bring me joy
in school, teachers explain, but don't
understand frustration
Teachers that understand why you don't understand
Brings Joy
Staying in the house when you want to go crazy transition
Outside all day Running alone Brings joy

The poem is short, the beard is long

XB

getting told no,
about to go,
on a rampage,
turning into,
the worlds,
longest beard.

Untitled

MA

Your favorite shirt has a hole
the feeling of never reaching your goal

Your car won't start in the morn
You feel like you wanna punch the horn

Your favorite shirt still fits
Setting one that you can hit

More time to relax and smile
Life's short, make it
Worth your while.

Untitled

DB

I can't eat, I can't sleep
Don't know why you can't see,
I get Anxiety!
Earbuds in my ears, phone in my hand,
Music in my Head, I don't feel dead.
I'm feeling Joy, I don't feel dead.

Untitled

CR

The smells of chicken and noodles,
and rice, the loudness of all the humans,
all the humans with friends and family,
then to go home and fight with
parents, after having joy in the restaurant
to scream, and yell. Though it was over
something dumb, and not worthy of
frustration.
The End.

Untitled

AS

My grandma is candy
She's sweet like candy
She means love
like heaven above
She means forgiveness
her heart has a certain toughness
She means talent
She is brilliant.

Hereditary Hardship

DK

I keep trying to find her,
Keep trying to write her
People wanna keep me away
I just want them out the way

I really want to ask somethings
Wish I was of age, so I could spread my wings
Need to ask her what I coulda done
Need to ask her what I shoulda done

She needs to know that I'm there
She needs to know that I'm here
And she really needs to know that I care
And she really needs to know that I'm here

I want you to know that I love you too
I hope I can tell you through the flows
I need you to know that it's me and you.
I hope that you can tell you that I love you so.

DEANDRE

DW

Thinkin' about my son and how we should be at home
Sitting in Jail, I thought my heart was cold as stone
but it isn't and got me wishin' I was out
so, I could listen and watch my son cry and pout
Sitting tucked away, I can't help but think
about all the time passing, quick as a wink
Time moves fast, but he grows up faster
I wish I could get out now, instead of later
I saw him twice for not long enough
his little hand locked onto my finger
Sitting with him in my arms, feeding him cheese puffs
the love in my heart makes me want to forever linger

Untitled

AR

She means safety
almost like a key
She means home
down to my bone

She means love
like heaven above
She means forgiveness
She is like a goddess

Untitled

AL

I dream about Subway
Melted mayo, turkey, and provolone, which I pray,
toasted on a slice of wheat bread
All wrapped up into a sandwich of heaven, which I said

The warm aroma of toasted bread fills the air
As I rip the paper off the sandwich with a tear
I pair my sub with an ice-cold root beer,
it's so good it makes me shed a tear

Untitled

KS

My sauce
is the boss
it tastes like magic
everybody else's is tragic
the only thing he was good for was his spaghetti
and then, he ran off with betty
the plate was hot
and he won't get another shot

Untitled

MA

Sometimes life puts you in a spin
Sometimes life lets you win
Sometimes there is no we
but you gotta Paul McCartney, let it be

I remember it like the day before last
So long ago, it goes by fast
It's okay I'll see you soon
Nothings gonna stop the rising of the moon

Sun yellow, like a bananas
The warmth call it Hannah Montana

Untitled

MP

She's keeping all 7 kids.
She sells the ring.
She moves to California, San Francisco,
All she does is work to give all
that she can to her kids.
She only has \$5.60 to buy her
Coffee to keep going.
All she smells is freedom from
getting away.
She is always late to work
at the coffee shop.
The end

Time Travel

XB

There ain't no pity in these streets. You don't rat for free.
Don't call me selfish, I ain't do that stuff for me
Grew up with no pops
My momma, she could kick rocks

me, my grandma, my brothers 3 too many mouths to feed
I remember all those nights, hearing all those shots, grandma ain't got
the money, we just want to leave

Untitled

AM

When I think of hard times, I remember my grandpa
He said he's seen it all
He told me not to think about the bad
That's what makes me be glad

He told me one day it all gon' be better
While I'm sitting in my cell, thinking about the weather
It's like I'm in school waiting for the last bell
My grandpa said, one day, Imma come back from hell

Untitled

CR

locked in a cell, just writing songs
praying to god i make it home
all this pain, i just wanna be alone
when talking to me watch yo tone
say you love me, but where did you go
ride for my brotha, that's on my soul
when i leave you, ain't answer the phone
please tell me what i did wrong

Untitled

NC

If I could have a superpower
I'd be as tall as a tower
I'd be as strong as a bull
I'd be swaggy, I'd be cool

Dang, I luv my mom
I swear she is da bomb
always make me feel like i'm worth it
she tells me I should never quit

The Best Food

NC

Noodles Romanowsky
it makes me so happy
eat it with some broccoli
and even a cup of tea

simmer up da sauce
in the kitchen, I'm the boss
boiling the noodles
ate it now, I'm at a loss

Biscuits n' Gravy

CB

Biscuits and gravy
will make you go crazy
cut it with a knife
it will brighten your life

put it in your mouth
right now
made at home
not a bowl of mush with a comb

Made at home
I'm not capping
Without a comb
you are clapping

I got the best biscuits and gravy
you can't touch 'em
I'm not last
When you're with 'em

The Nastily Divine

AR and KS

If the world ended
The World is a big square
When I leave today
could fall asleep
What if the Tree
I could whine
That would be corkingly divine!
When the big, fluffy wheezie decided to cry
my mom will run away to China when she sees you
But Garfield took my wallet
If I cried
There will be crickets tomorrow

Untitled

Sadness, there's no more prune juice
broccoli
The horse jumped over the hay.

Untitled

If the Irish take all the earth's oil
She will drink her prune juice
But it will not change her facial expression
If he left
The sun will set in the east
You have Dorito cheesy hands
I will lick my fingers off.
if I liked the place
That would be foul
What if the officer
I will wear a cat on my head
...and why did you just sneeze?

Untitled

I saw a fluffy bug
She let her hair down.
Dogs are amazing
Dolphins had a bottom half of human and top dolphin
Why he so long.
Why he got so much energy.
The stop sign is Red
Horseshoe pits are microscopic bugs

Untitled

CM and CR

If the officers stopped being officers
They will fly away
What if I cried
I would die
That would be delicious
If the dog finds out about the popart...
In 10 years, I will reincarnate
But the door is neither closed nor open.
If went cliff diving
Breakfast will be tasty
When my dog sleeps
Dog is great tomorrow!

Untitled

Table 1

Never gonna give my hamster up.
Obama is a good lookin' man uuu
The sea cow is an extinct animal from the Atlantic Ocean
She's a bad type of bad

Untitled

She got ran over by a truck
The cat meowed for milk
Dogs are man's best friend.
I eat food, you should too. ☺

Untitled

The sky is grey
Doughnuts walked with legs and had eyes
This place is so fun!
He has no hair line
The sun is yellow
I am a green bird.
My name is Juan Carlos Sanchez.
Captain America is a very nice person on weekdays.
The monkeys in the room are screaming
at each other

Untitled

Violets are blue
Dog walked on 2 legs
I am Who I am
The dog ate my homework

Untitled

The Dog was dead.
The chicken crossed the road
The Dog is Brown
I am -3,182 years old
Hairy Potter's a hairy otter
the water is sticky
They really got my goal
Why the sour face?

Untitled

She wore a red coat
I saw a shooting star
Old people are funny looking
The cat jumped in a puddle
the garage is in a worse condition than yesterday
I am 187 years old
The banana wore a hat
The Tiger is Big

Untitled

I am so bored
The water is Blue
officer Clemens is 597 years old
I love eating cake and steak together

Untitled

The cat is an animal
The cow jumped over the moon
The cow said moo.
My cousin fell
He took a bite out of the cake
Roses are red
No one lives from a Doggo Apocalypse
I don't know what to write.

Untitled

TA

I see myself getting off Probation
and focusing on school
Focusing on myself
and bettering everything in my life
the freedom of it all scares me
'cause I don't want to get in trouble
again.
When I achieve this, I see myself feeling
a weight lifted off my shoulders
a breath I've been holding released.

Untitled

DK

I see myself becoming a successful musician.

I am a musician

I got so much ambition

I got this new edition

I know that you'll be listenin'.

Untitled

AS

What scares me is going out in the real world and messing up. Not having enough structure.

My grandma can hold me accountable and make sure I'm giving myself structure.

Untitled

CM

If I see myself Being scared because
if I get on PB, Then, There
is a more likely chance of
me coming Back here.

Untitled

AR

What Scares me about my goal is
that I won't finish my classes on time.

All my credits are only .5 when I
need 7.75 more credits to 7.75 more credits to graduate
by June 1st, so it scared me that

I won't be able to finish all my
classes on time.

My life will be different because I'll
most likely move to a different state
and I won't have my mom by my side
Constantly giving me constant
reassurance and advice.

I see myself at a beach
with my textbook out

Untitled

D

I see myself being worried about
taking risks to gain more money,
but overcoming the fear because
you need to take risks to make
more money. My life will be more
enjoyable when I meet my goal.

Untitled

AM

When I get out, I see myself listening to
Music because I feel good listening to music. Also,
When I get out, I want to eat pizza.

Untitled

CB

I see myself cruising down
the autobahn in my hot rod
with my windows down, blasting my rock and roll
pushin' 170.

Untitled

AW

I see myself away from family in the
U.S, and in Italy near the rest of my
family in Venice and It's sunny and
they're people out having fun and talking
and partying as everyone watches
fireworks.

Untitled

DB

I see myself
under a cover of green

The situation remains to be

seen of me
climbing a tree

When I got to rest my head

Cheer

DB

The anticipation of my last cheer-day
I put in my all,
We were learning our moves,
But I couldn't keep up.
I slipped and slid
as the floor was still wet
from the night before.
Soon came the end,
It was my last cheer-day.

Untitled

DW

The thing that scares me the most about accomplishing my goal is failure. Being able to go to college and being the first one in my family to go and some how messing it up scares me.

Untitled

DB

I see myself being a veterinarian.
I'm scared of the taxes and the
debt I'll be in. I'm also scared about
who I'll be after if I'll be stuck up or not.
I do not wanna be stuck up. I think I'll
feel happy after I get out of school or college.

Untitled

Here in the life objects keep changing into
the suffering brother of the forty-eight keys of
the typewriter

My first drop

LZ

When I learned my first drop, I felt accomplished successful, and proud. I overcame my fear and completed the drop, then, perfected it. The silk burned, but I got used to the feeling and began trying harder to learn new tricks. I felt even more proud as classmates cheered me on and hugged me with each new thing I learned.

One Piece of Wood with 4 Wheels

KT

Finding skateboarding for the first time was so calming, being able to kick off a board and hearing the whooshing of the air around me as I kicked harder and harder to gain speed. Falling for the first time was one of the best feelings, I got right back up and went down a hill, going even faster, knowing I was probably going to fall or crash even harder than before and feeling the adrenaline through my blood and the stress setting in. Peaceful.
not being able to see the world in detail,
but blurry and fast, familiar.

My First Kickflip

DE

retro skateboard
that's green on the bottom

- 1 I stood on my skateboard
- 2 I got in position
- 3 I bent my knees
- 4 I popped the back of the board
- 5 I slid my foot across the board
- 6 I caught my feet on the board
- 7 I landed on the ground
- 8 I got surprised
- 9 I stepped off the board
- 10 I had done my first kickflip

Untitled

AM

I dribbled down the court, cross-over after cross-over
then, shot the rock, watching it go through the net. After, I threw
my hands up in triumph as my team won the game. This win caused
us to get into the championship.

My first win

DK

I went up to the mat and got down
on my knees. The kid got on top of me
and was breathing in my ear. We wrestled
until I pinned him. I had won. After all
the grunting and sweating, I had finally
beat this kid. This was my first win.

Championship

KT

In the 4th quarter, the last two minutes of the game,
Carolina was down by 2 points in the NCAA Championship.
Jordan was passed the ball. As he flew down the court,
dribbling the rock, he pulled up at the three and
shot a wicked three-point shot, inducing the crowd
to go wild. Without looking to see if he made
his shot, he turned away, not wanting to look
and see if he had made it or not in fear of
missing the potentially game winning shot.
With the crowd going wild, and sweat pouring
down his face, Jordan led the Carolina Tarheels
to their first championship of Jordan's career.

Untitled

CM

Here
the gold rug
two flowers taking root in its crotch
lighting up both the soil and the laugh.
Each day I feed the world out there
I feed the world in here too

Untitled

AM

Here,
in the room of my life
Ashtrays to
each contestant
waiting
the fireplace
waiting for someone to pick it up,
opening and closing like sea clams,
me
lighting up
the
objects
in my hands
that bangs in my throat.

Untitled

DW

Here
The objects keep changing
The books, waiting like a cave of bees
The lights Poking at me
The windows
Right and left
Nothing is Just what it seems to be

Untitled

TF

Here
in the life
objects keep changing
into
the suffering brother of the
forty-eight typewriters
each an eyeball never shut,
the books each a contestant beauty
the black chair made of Naugahyde
a conversation
for someone
exhausted
poking at me

Untitled

BY

Here
my life
changing
into
suffering

Untitled

KT

My life
Keeps changing
suffering
woodwalls never shut
each wall exhausted
with the exertion
taking root
the doors
opening and closing
poking at me,
I feel the world
I feed the world
nothing is just
what it seems
to be.

Untitled

JC

Here
my room
Ashtrays
of wood
forty-eight keys
an eyeball shut.
A dog made of Naugahyde
the sockets of the wall
the gold
heels
the fireplace
a knife
exhausted with the exertion of a w***e.
the doors
opening and closing
the lights
lighting up
the starving windows
that drive the trees
Each day I feed the world
I feed the world in here too.
nothing is just what it seems to be.
My dream
compelled to, it seems, by all the words in my hands

Untitled

AP

Here
in life
objects keep changing
into suffering
forty-eight keys of the typewriter
poking at me,
the starving windows
drive the trees like nails into my heart

Untitled

DK

Here
life
into suffering
each contestant in a contest
coffin
waiting
a knife
exhausted with exertion
Each day
right and left.

Untitled

IN

my life
keeps changing.
A cry in
eye never shut
coffin made of
heels and toes
exhausted
flowers
closing like sea clams
my heart
explodes
nothing seems to
bang in my throat.

Untitled

JB

In the room of my life
To cry, for the suffering
brother,
Each, an eyeball that is
shut, the sockets
waiting like a cave
of bees, the fireplace
is exhausted, the flowers
taking root, doors,
opening and opening
and closing like
sea clams, the light
poking me, the staving
windows that drive
the trees like nails into my heart
I feed
offering the desk
However, nothing is just what it seems to be
compelled the words into my hands.

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- Residents and Juvenile Facility Staff
- Student Volunteers and Cohort Advisors
- Staff, Teaching Artists, and Contractors
- Board of Directors, Community
Partners, and Donors

It takes a team to achieve what Writers in
Residence does, so thank you to
everyone involved!

When you donate to Writers in Residence

Your contribution sustains our Creative Writing Workshop with teaching artists, writing materials, snacks, and chapbooks.

Your support assists our residents who are reentering into their communities with limited access to social services including housing, employment, food, health care, and education.

Your generosity educates our local communities and government officials about the juvenile justice system's traumatic effect on our youth.

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