


Writers in Residence

the
sun
falls
as it rises

Fall 2022

Baldwin Wallace University



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.

And for the youth no longer with us.
We call them our friends.
We know them by name.

This is for them.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Mission	p. 01
Values	p. 02
Schools & Facilities	p. 04
Impact	p. 06
Letter From the Cohort	p. 08
Artifacts	p. 10
Acknowledgments	p. 38

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.

RELATIONSHIP. 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.

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. We continually welcome and accept our residents into our communities to promote 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.

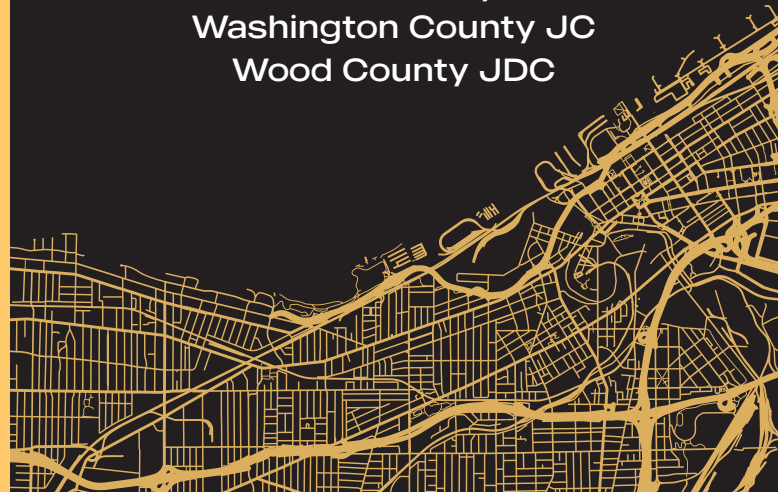
SCHOOLS



- | | |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Baldwin Wallace Univ. | 9. John Carroll Univ. |
| 2. Bowling Green State Univ. | 10. Marietta College |
| 3. Capital Univ. | 11. Oberlin College |
| 4. Case Western Reserve Univ. | 12. The Ohio State Univ. |
| 5. Cleveland State Univ. | 13. Ohio Univ. |
| 6. College of Wooster | 14. Univ. of Dayton |
| 7. Heidelberg Univ. | 15. Univ. of Toledo |
| 8. Hiram College | |

FACILITIES

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



IMPACT

Our Creative Writing Workshops occur weekly in the spring and fall seasons. Each workshop lasts 12 weeks and every session runs for 60-90 minutes either in-person or remotely. 10-15 residents participate and 5-12 student volunteers from a local college or university engage with the youth. The experience is facilitated by a teaching artist from the community. Then, we publish, showcase, and distribute chapbooks filled with our residents' creative writing artifacts inside juvenile facilities, on campuses, and throughout the region at local businesses to raise awareness about the juvenile justice system.

We survey our residents to understand our impact. These surveys give us quantitative and qualitative data so we can continue to deliver a high-quality program experience. The Baldwin Wallace University Cohort's chapbook was designed on November 5th, 2022, to ensure that the residents received this chapbook at the final workshop. As a result, the outputs reported only reflect a fraction of this cohort's and the organization's net impact from this fall program season.

To learn more,
visit writersnresidence.org/impact!

FALL TOTALS

- 74 RESIDENTS

- 4 Student Volunteers

- 24 HOURS

- \$1,916.80

Fiscal Valuation

- 43 ARTIFACTS

- 1 Chapbook

the sun falls as it rises

Dear Readers,

During this semester's workshop, we have seen many residents step out of their comfort zones in ways that exceeded our expectations. Each one of them has so much to contribute. When they come in, they really don't feel it, but that shift is so apparent at the end because we have a little fun with it. They just need someone to help them recognize that potential within themselves. The youth were so often willing to be silly while putting their best effort forward. We have loved being able to be there when they have really opened up to the writing process. Seeing them able to share their inner thoughts with the group and on paper to be published has been an incredible experience. For instance, we loved how much the kids got into the Surrealism lesson!

The creators of these works have faced many challenges in their young lives. Yet, they have invested energy into these pieces which sometimes require vulnerability and confrontation with oneself. The youth have really poured their hearts and souls into their work. The pieces they

have written have given them a voice that they have grown into using to express themselves. These writers have chosen to be brave and for this reason, their unique voices deserve to be heard. What you should know is that the youth here are immensely creative in their writing. Their confidence was low at the beginning of this program however right now that growth in their form of expression is huge!

We're grateful that we got to meet these residents and hear all of the things that they had to say and read all of the things that they had to write. They have developed in so many ways throughout the workshop in growing their voices as well as their self-esteem. We feel so blessed to have worked with these residents because they are talented, intelligent, and kind individuals. We have gained a new perspective on how writing is viewed as rigid and exclusively academic by the larger society. However, the more we can show how intimate and spontaneous writing can be, the better we will understand how deeply it connects us to one another. We cherish the connections we've made with the residents most of all. We feel like it's easy to push away the residents but there was so much oophm in them that we are so happy to have been with them this semester.

Baldwin Wallace University Cohort

Untitled

A.L.

To be alive, is to truly live
Let the light in, shattered shines.

Untitled

C.M.

Accomplish your dreams,
but, explore first.
It's only one thing,
don't stress.
Your life,
do what you want.
Always good to
have different friends.
Is life worth
living or no?

Untitled

D.B.

Rock climbing is difficult I can't.
Love can be very tearful, ugh.
Big juicy burgers are so good.
Be better than you did before.
Why can't I sleep in jail?

Untitled

J.R.

Can't see the bottom
but take the leap.
Ice cream is
definitely equal to life.
Sun always falls
just as it rises.

My Life

C.M.

C.M.

My...food safe place my neighborhood
is friendly is rich, is big, is fun to live in;
it looks rich looking splashing

Medina

J.G.

In my neighborhood we think a lot about
birds singing, trains blaring, rain
dancing.
You may call it me-di-na but we
call it home.
My neighborhood is peaceful, is not
chaotic.

Untitled

A.L.

I have separation anxiety from my cat
I wonder what the sky looks like
Why do the leaves change?
I feel bipolar right now
The sky is green to colorblind people
How much sand is on a beach?
If I take these lemon pepper steppers
Then the child became a burger
But it no way I can run it is not it is
tell the label pay my bond
If I had feet for hands
If I opened a pet shop I'd sell too much

If I had a genie...
But you peanut buttered my cookies
Then the turtles would run and cheetahs would creep
If I could go back in time

Untitled

L.Z.

Then I would scream
If I could fly a plane
But peanut butter jelly time came along
The broccoli would taste like peanut butter cups
If I could go rock climbing

She likes to sleep
I have a "cuddly" cactus
I hate cows
I miss eating sushi
Round coconuts are prickly
Do fish sleep?
My hair is fried
I'm him, I been himma
Then the paper flew high in the sky
But if you slide through their block
imma leave yo head in yo top
If only chicken

Untitled

W.R.

If you did not do it you would not be stuck
in the dryer saying help
Then my mom would not be here
If I fell in love with a superstar
But what if you do marry Spiderman
Then dreams would come true not the nightmares
If time could pause
I miss being high in the sky with the clouds and birds
Then the train went on the run
Otherwise jack and jill went on a drill
If turkeys lied

You like Star Wars
Why are dogs so viscous
The sun is bright blue like the ocean
Do you like King Vonny
Do you like to play with rats
Where are you from? What's it like?
You already know just put yo girl on fleek

Untitled

P.W.

Then you were lost
If you did not do it you wouldn't be stuck
in the dryer yelling help me I am stuck
Then I would go to McDonald's to sleep
If I was never born...
But what if you put on your lemon peppa steppas
Then I would be the happiest person alive
If it was snowing
Never forget the way they look at me
Then who was in the mystery machine
But players sit around a table
If I snitched?!?!

The kid jumped over the moon then fell
Do you like floors
Why do we gotta listen to our parents
Hi I am your google assistant how may i help you today?
Do you like rubbing people feet
Who do you trust
Prison is fun so fun

Untitled

D.B.

Why do this world have maximum security jails
We are the warriors of the world
Do you like stuff animal snake with pizza
Why would a person get rabies by some animals like how?
Is the house really hunted?
Who took my clothes help
Why are parents so strict

But you not good at basketball
Then it got crazy
Then I would sleep amazing
If the past never happened...
But what if you don't fly over the moon
Then the oceans would freeze and fish would walk away
If it was bedtime
Bing bong
Then the hot dog got a homerun
But why you gotta keep on playing

Untitled

J.G.

Then the chicken ate the cow
Momo is coming for you
If pickles could fly
If I had good vocals, I'd be famous
Ma I dead?
You eat cold hot dogs
Then bananas would be purple
Then you're a mean one, Mr. Grinch
But the dog barked
If beaches have no water
If the grass wasn't green?

The ocean is very blue
You smell like a chocolate covered motorcycle
Music is cool
Evil eyes protect me from malice
The shark flew through the air
Chicken nuggets dipped in pasta
Chicken chicken chicken.

Untitled

J.C.

If I'm open to questions
I cat dd lol
What about my chicken?
Then you'd be a green alien
Then the USA is going to be invaded by Canada
Then he died
If the fire extinguisher was broken
If there was no religion would people be good?
But why did you do it to end up in here
Then you still back in jail you mad?

My cell fell yesterday
I can't stop trippin
Watching netflix > sleeping
Follow your passion
A b c d e f g?
Let me talk my cheese
We're on a floating rock :)

Untitled

T.W.

If you jump off the house you fly-- Momo
If I liked turtles, I would have one
I'm a cat?
You look like an angry happy meal.
Then apples would be oranges
Then, when, hen, stem, len, grin, glen
Do otherwise die
If whiteboards were black
If food had no flavor
But Thomas still don't like you

I like giant pigs
Christmas is mid to Halloween
The zombies ate the car
You smell like Abdul Sheriff Oneal picking a lock
I don't got anything in my mind
Text me like you talkin and it's a vibe
The taco bell owner got fired
Then you ran

Untitled

T.C.

Otherwise known as chicken flavored bird droppings
Momo is in the building
If giant pigs were real I'd have so much bacon
4442 I dat to
You look like a hungry kit kat
Then I'd laugh
Then I wet my pants
But no you why
If burger king was McDonald's
If flowers didn't need sunlight
But Jovie still don't like you and Maddie Harm

You look like a cowboy trying to hotwire a happy meal
Best football people, good
Need more time
The burger flew to the moon
You look like Admiral Akbar catching a body
That don't make sense
Bing bong!

Untitled

E.S.

But I like orsh
If you
Then the sky would be yellow
Then I was dumb now I'm dumb with a capital D
Then Bob the Builder died
If the exit was enter
Then you didn't get out

I like the music corps
I like potato sandwiches
The sky is blue.
My soul is solid.
Anuma is liv.
No peepin.
My mom loves sunflowers.
I am short
If there were no stars, would anyone like night?
But you still in jail for a while
If you Mexican then we cool.
Yo momma would be stuck round the universe cuz she
ate too much peanut butter.

Untitled

J.C.

If water wasn't blue
If the earth stopped turning, what would happen?
But my dad died in a car crash oh my god.
Then you take her to the O.
If you hard then don't talk about it be about poop.
Then I'd like peanut butter on my ice cream.
If my name was J...
But what if your mom fell down the stairs?
Then the city lights would be brighter than stars
and warmer.
If a dog jumps
If this world could stay, would I still love it?

The car was fast.
The dog barked.
Morgan Freeman is Awesome.
Noooo
What did the lightning say to the cow.
The grass needs mowed.
Dad needs me.
Chocolate
Talk too much.

Untitled

A.A.

If I could fly
If an evil eye could speak, she'd say
Then the giant hot dog went to the seat
But you could never gourd me
If turkeys liked chickens
If lot cats, then I'd be on a diet
Sid FNAF
They call me guapo.
Then burgers would be free
Then we ran into the Father, The Son, and The Holy Spirit

The dog ate the carrot
Candy is very tasty and makes me hungry.
Pink fluffy unicorns dancing on rainbows
The soccer ball got flat.
Why are whales so big?
Unicorns poop pink, blue, and purple.
The turtle won the race.
I really want a burrito right now.
My armpits are loud.
The clown pushed the lever.
Milk and cookies are good for you.

Untitled

E.E.

But you didn't make me drop my croissant
Then the skies would cry pink lemonade
If I could order some food
If my stomach could stop growling
Then I bought a flying banana boat
But I can't stop
If I had a GF
If I'm lonely
Great flood hungry
You eat happy burgers
Then I'll be asleep

Pasta is my favorite
Jarred ate the glazed doughnut
Moonlight shines on a funny snail.
My milkshake brings all the boys to the yard.
The wolf jumped over the donut.
Lemon drops shine bright as sunset.
You almost made me drop my croissant
Jon rowed the boat with a pencil.
Drawing is fun but I'm not good at it.
Chocolate makes me die.
Cole went wonkers while driving.

Untitled

D.M.

If I lost \$200
Then I would sing a song.
Then world peace is pointless.
But he fell off
If you were a guard
If I were in Europe, what country would I go to?
Your hair is still nappy lil folks what's going on.
You didn't need help look now you do
You like it then don't cry about it.
Then I'd want to eat a whole buffet of peanut butter.
If D tried to hotwire a happy meal.

I like jail.
My cat ate my Chipotle.
I stepped on my pet spider last night.
I not like ran
Look at my cookies
Who are we all?
I have a pet officer.
?

Untitled

B.S.

Then I ate ramen noodles and salad.
Then he slipped.
If I was you.
If fall didn't come, would I miss it?
But you didn't turn into Ben 10 yet.
Then you got 10 years
If you're von you be on block not dead
Then your mom would sleep till peanut butter was invented.
If my name was B...
But what if Thomas the choo choo train crashed?
Then we'd breathe water and drink the sky.

"Yeah"- everyone
Po-op
The clock was slow.
BurgerKingfootlettuce
It smells clean (no it doesn't).
I took a dump in YOUR toilet.
3 days
I like Medina.

I'm going on a drive.
Mmmmm "Oh Yeah!" Kool-Aid Man.

Untitled

C.M.

But I don't want to
If she was not she
If I was at the beach, what would I be doing?
But do not snitch in jail
Then you told
If you think hard then get hard it's not that hard.
Then peanut butter would never be made and I'd cry.
If I could make trap music...
But what if T never turned?
Then our journeys would all reach a happy end.
If I could touch the stars.

Chicken nugget
The moon mooded
The witches met
Catholics are better
Turkey season
The cow said meow
I went on a run
Fudge sundaes
And chicken

Untitled

W.R.

Dear future self,
Remember you enjoyed baseball and playing baseball and
watching baseball and your favorite team is the Cincinnati
Reds and try not to get felonies and you like writing to and
you like Star Wars, Prison Break, Hobbit, Lord of the Rings,
Quantum Leap, and Magnum P.I., and Court Cam, and Night
Court and baseball and Marvel and TV and Riverdale, and
music for sure. And remember you were on news when you
came in here on 8/30/2022. Juvie. And remember you broke
into a house when you turned 11 years old but you were
honest about it when the police came to your door
11 months later. And I am facing 18 months to 3 years.

Untitled

T.C.

Stay in school.
Stay outta trouble.

Untitled

E.S.

Dear E.S.,

I know you're going through a rough time being in the cell for something you didn't do but still have to pay the price. The number 119 you will always remember it as a good thing and not a bad thing. As you see your mom's heartbroken as she is at visitation this letter will shine a light in her. As your tree branches break down you will always have them grow. As your heart breaks down it will always grow back up and your family will be by your side.

Untitled

D.B.

Don't go to jail again.

Get better at basketball.

Dear Dylan, if you decide to be good in life, don't go to jail, get a job and move smarter in life

Untitled

J.G.

I opened my eyes. That's when I realized I was in a coffin. I bang on the box trying to get someone to open it. No one came for a while then I saw light coming through. The man opening it completely went pale.

I look in the mirror that's when I realize a spider coming out of my ear.

Untitled

B.S.

To me--

I don't want to grow up in jail, so stop screwing up.
I don't want to see my family, friends, or even people that care about me sit in jail. Start trying please

- Yourself

Age 15

October 15th, 2022

2:38PM

Untitled

B.S.

My legs hurt but I tried to walk anyway.
I then saw that I didn't have legs.
I finally finished my 2 year sentence. When I woke up
for my second day, when I smiled into the mirror
I got nothing back but a frown.

Untitled

E.P.

My mom texted me that she just got home. She had
been home for hours. I turned my light off to go to
sleep. As soon as I did that, I heard 2 people breathing;
My friend looked a little inhuman when I met up with
him. 5 miles into hanging out, he texted me he's on the
way.

Untitled

J.C.

I wonder what happens when you pull the pin on a grenade.
That is what I said before I died.

I looked at a mirror and smiled.
My reflection didn't smile back.

I was sitting on my bed and heard knocking on my window.
Then I woke up.

Untitled

J.S.

I was walking alone down a dark street but whenever I
looked back I saw its eyes glowing in the dark getting
closer each time I looked back.

But when I looked there was nothing there and the
laughing started to come from the basement.

Untitled

A.L.

I was sitting in my apartment alone. I sneezed and
someone answered bless you.

I carved a pumpkin and he had a particular frowny face.
When I turned around it was smiling back at me.

My best friend's name is Ashley. When I introduced her
to my family they told me no one was there.

Untitled

E.S.

Battery at one percent. Gas on E. Country road will
make it home tonight and after I say that there evil
laugh I look out my window.

Ode to xxxtentacion

B.S.

One day I was watching PewDiePie.
He said that you were shot to die.
He was looking like he was ready to cry.
That was the first I ever learned about you not gonna lie.
I was listening to you then and I thought...
Your song Jocelyn Flores slapped.
All my friends told me they thought you were crap.
I told them all to go run a lap.
No they snapped.

Untitled

P.W.

Ion need a picture of my dad I need the real thing.
I guess a relationship is something we won't ever have,
why do I feel like I lost something that I never had. I
guess those pills are more important cuz you kept
poppin till them pills killed you. I know you gone but I
can still feel you. Every time I get a wiff of that
cigarette smell, I think of you, I'm thinking this isn't real.
Ya. Them pills got you right.

Untitled

C.M.

The flash I got 100K max
I like to run up my bag because I fast and I'm known to
do the dash because I do whatever to chase the bag till
I'm at my max. I like to crawl because I'm a dog.
Imma jump on you like a fog.

Ode to Yoda

W.R.

I am smart on certain things.
I can talk like Yoda.
I know a lot about certain things and guess right on the
top of my head.
Do or do not there is no try (I will always do) - Yoda

Untitled

J.C.

Dear Harry,
You do some cool things that some people don't think is
cool like me. I do some cool things but some people don't
think is cool like you when you think Hagrid is awesome.
I think my dad is awesome but some people don't think so
like my mom. My dad will do anything for me like Hagrid
for Harry and Harry and Sirius.

acknowledgments

We want to acknowledge the following individuals for their time, energy, and resources devoted to Writers in Residence:

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

It takes a team to achieve what we do,
so thank you to everyone involved!

And a special thanks to the following institutions:



Anisfield-Wolf Book Awards*



ways to give

This chapbook is available in exchange for a donation.

Your support directly benefits our youth
through education and re-entry.

\$5 - This gift covers the cost of a chapbook printed locally in Cleveland, OH by Outlandish Press.

\$50 - This gift allows a teaching artist from the community to facilitate a creative writing workshop at a juvenile facility. This gift also helps a resident become matched with a mentor.

\$100 - This gift sustains the organization's daily operations to provide its programs and initiatives.

Visit writersnresidence.org/donate to
give or scan the code below.



Writers in Residence is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt nonprofit
organization incorporated in Ohio.