

Writing Our Communities  
Participant Application

**Developing Your Voice  
Workshop Series**

**Developing Your Voice:** How can you use your voice to make a positive change? What's the best way to express your beliefs and perspectives, or engage with someone who has totally different views? **How can you enter the conversation?**

Writing Our Communities (WOC) presents a **free** three-part workshop, Developing Your Voice, which will help you answer these questions. We will focus on understanding others, articulating one's own opinions, and engaging in meaningful dialogue. These workshops will be framed in the context of social justice, civic engagement, and recent political events. You'll have the opportunity to explore topics that you're passionate about, and stretch the boundaries of your knowledge and abilities. These workshops will be facilitated by Union College students, as well as some Union College professors/faculty serving as guest facilitators. By the end of these workshops, you'll be better able to engage in meaningful dialogue; you will learn to deeply listen to the perspectives of another, as well as explain your viewpoints clearly and confidently.

**Eligibility:** To be eligible for this program, you must be a high school student from Schenectady or nearby communities in 10th, 11th, or 12th grade. You **must** be able to attend **all three workshops** (one per month - January, February, and March), and you must have a firm commitment to participating. To apply, students must complete and submit an application on time, included signed sheets and two writing submissions (see further information below).

**Workshop Information:** There will be three workshops across three months - January, February, and March. These workshops will be held at the Schenectady County Public Library (located at 99 Clinton Street, Schenectady). Snacks will be provided.

- 1) **Listening:** Tuesday, January 17 (4:00-6:30 pm)
- 2) **Responding:** Tuesday, February 14 (4:00-6:30 pm)
- 3) **Conversing:** Tuesday, March 7 (4:00-6:30 pm)

**Application Submission/Status:** All applications must be submitted by **January 6, 2017**. Final selections will be made by January 10, and all applicants will be informed of their application status. **Please submit all applications (scanned) by email to [writingourcommunities@gmail.com](mailto:writingourcommunities@gmail.com), or mail completed paper copies to the address below. If mailed, make sure it arrives by January 6, 2017.**

**Gianluca Avanzato  
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Schenectady NY 12308**

**\*If you have any questions, email Gianluca at [writingourcommunities@gmail.com](mailto:writingourcommunities@gmail.com).\***

## Student/Applicant Information

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

Mobile phone number: \_\_\_\_\_

(and/or) Home phone number \_\_\_\_\_

### Required Student Writing Submissions:

- **Submission 1:** Please submit a few paragraphs explaining why you're interested in these workshops. Why is developing your voice important to you? We'd like to hear about your hopes: what would you like to get out of this? Also, please include what strengths that you believe you would bring to the workshops and to group activities.
- **Submission 2:** Please write about a societal/cultural issue that you feel passionate about. This submission should be an essay format, and we encourage you to do some research (please cite any sources). This submission should be between 1-3 pages typed, double-spaced. You shouldn't feel stressed about this piece, but instead approach it as an opportunity to explore and explain an issue/problem that is important to you.

**Student Affirmation:** I affirm that I am able and prepared to attend all three WOC Developing Your Voice workshops. If I do not show up on time or if I miss a workshop, I understand that this will affect group dynamics and lessons, and that it is unfair to another committed applicant who might have taken my place. I am prepared to listen and work with others, as well as participate and use my voice.

Student signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## Parent/Guardian Information

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Relation to applicant: \_\_\_\_\_

Home phone number: \_\_\_\_\_

Mobile phone number: \_\_\_\_\_

Additional contact information:  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Parent/Guardian Affirmation:** I have read over the information regarding WOC's Developing Your Voice three-part workshop, and I grant permission to the student to apply. I understand that, if selected, the student *must* attend all three workshops; participants must be on time, attend every workshop, and have necessary transportation to and from the Schenectady County Public Library.

Parent/Guardian signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_