

## HOW IT WORKS - FOR EDUCATORS

Welcome to Write the World! We offer a range of tools and resources to help you create a vibrant writing community within your classroom. As educators ourselves, we understand the exciting (and challenging) task of engaging young people in the writing process. We also understand how little time teachers have when it comes to finding fresh material, developing resources, and implementing creative writing into an already packed curriculum. We're here to help.

Watch our founder, David Weinstein, talk about the ways Write the World empowers young writers on this [Harvard Advanced Leadership Initiative video](#).



Walt Whitman said, 'To have great poets, there must be great audiences, too.' Write the World encourages my students to carefully consider not only what and how they write, but the universality

community of readers. This shift has had a profound impact on the way in which they understand and communicate their shared humanity.

Glenn Manning, High School English Teacher

Billie Fitzpatrick, Chief Learning Strategist for Write the World describes the many benefits of writing in an online community in [Episode Seven](#) of Turnitin's "The Written Word."

## Create your own model...

We realize that young writers write best when they're connected with a community and feel supported by a smaller, familiar group. At Write the World you can give your students both. An ideal platform for blended learning or a flipped-classroom, Write the World can be integrated into your classroom in many ways:

### START YOUR OWN WRITING GROUP

Use the Write the World platform to create a private writing group for your class, school, district, or community. By limiting membership and tailoring curriculum, a private group allows you to connect personally with students as you mentor them through the writing process. As the Group Manager, you can create prompts, rubrics, and resources for all types of writing and subject areas. In addition, you can design assignments and assessments, facilitate peer review, and access your students' work through individual portfolios.

LEARN MORE

REQUEST A GROUP

### INTEGRATE OUR GLOBAL PLATFORM INTO YOUR CURRICULUM

Connect your classroom to a global community of young writers. With members representing over 120 countries, Write the World offers your students the excitement and vibrancy of writing for a "real" audience, beyond the walls of a classroom. As Write the World members, your students can enter monthly competitions, exchange peer reviews with writers from all around the world, and respond to our weekly prompts. Access our suite of resources, and utilize the platform's publishing and portfolio tools—all while incorporating prompts, competitions, and peer review into your curriculum.

Reasons Your Students Should Join Write the World

SIGN UP

Click [here](#) in the header for frequently asked questions and more information. To request a personal demo of Write the World, contact us at [hello@writetheworld.com](mailto:hello@writetheworld.com).

## WRITING PROMPTS

Our writing prompts encourage students to experiment with an array of techniques and styles—from op-eds to poems, flash fiction to memoir, college essays to research papers. We're always reading work from international, contemporary, and classical authors to bring diverse voices to the ears of your students. By drawing on rich examples from the field, we show young writers that they are entering an exciting (and worthy!) literary tradition, a community that spans time, place, and age.



GO TO PROMPTS

## WRITING COMPETITIONS

Each month Write the World holds a new [competition](#), developed around a particular writing genre and with its own set of guidelines and resources. Competitions encourage participants to dig deeper

community beyond classroom walls.

When entering competitions, students have the opportunity to receive peer and expert feedback before submitting their final piece. Here's how competitions work:



Share with your students more tips for entering competitions.



## What's Different About Write the World Competitions?

- They're free! Young writers enter with no entry fees.
- Prizes: The winning entrant will receive \$100, and the runner-up and best peer-reviewer will receive \$50.
- Professional Recognition: The winning entry, plus the runner-up and best peer review, will be featured on our blog, with commentary from our guest judge.
- Expert Review: Young writers who submit their draft within the first week will receive feedback from our team of experts—authors, writing teachers, and education professionals.
- Peer Review: Young writers exchange feedback on their drafts at any point in the process.
- [Guest Judges](#): From Poet Laureates to The President's speech writer—our monthly competitions are judged by renowned and respected writers from across the globe.

View our current, past, and upcoming competitions [here](#).

See our [Guest Judges](#)

### PEER REVIEW

We're here to help you establish a culture of peer review in the classroom. The best writers draft and redraft their work—often based on the feedback they receive from their writing community—and we believe the exchange of feedback between students can be one of the best tools for developing a vibrant writing culture in the classroom. Whether your past experience with peer review has made you an enthusiast or critic (or somewhere in between), we think you'll find peer reviewing on the Write the World platform to be a valuable addition to any writing project. Guided by peer review questions tailored to each prompt, students comment on one another's work, offering encouragement, advice, and questions.

By engaging in peer review, writers:

- Get valuable feedback
- Share work with a wide audience
- Gain fresh perspectives and develop insight into their own writing process
- Critically engage with the work of others
- Make connections with others in the Write the World community

- Highlighting and commenting on specific elements of the text.
- Responding to peer review questions (in the right column) that are customized for each prompt and designed to incite both critical thinking and encouragement.

The screenshot shows a digital writing platform interface. On the left, a text prompt is displayed: "dying weeds" by cakesofwrath. Below the prompt, a student's response is shown: "The hair on his chin lay like dying weeds, though not for lack of trying, and he rubbed his palm across it as he slumped in the dying light and waited." A comment bubble above the text says "awesome metaphor". On the right, a "MESSAGE TO READERS" section contains the text "word choice?". Below that, a "PEER REVIEW" section contains the question "Which detail reveals the most about this character? Why?" and the response: "I think your metaphor of facial hair being like dying weeds is unique and interesting. The phrase 'though not for lack of trying' is a bit ambiguous -- it could mean that he has tried to shave them off, or if following the metaphor, as if the dying weeds had tried their best to be alive. I think the vagueness of this phrase is cool, but maybe could be a tad bit more clear in its meaning." Below the response, another question is posed: "What else would you like to know about this character, based on these four details?" and the response: "Why doesn't this character shave his face, or grow a beard? Is he stressed forgetting to shave? What is he".

We encourage students to review [How to Write a 5-Star Review](#) (and take feedback in stride).

Share with your students more tips from one of our young writers on [how to become a master peer reviewer](#) and [how to take feedback in stride](#).

## EXPERT REVIEW AND RUBRICS

Expert Review allows you to give comprehensive, rubric-based feedback to your students. Unlike peer reviews, which can be written for any published piece of writing (and can be read by the wider community), expert reviews are privately exchanged on submitted drafts. The reviews are structured according to the rubric, and are designed to enhance the student's understanding of the writing process through qualitative feedback.

In the example below, the student receives highlighted comments from the expert reviewer (within the text), as well as feedback in the right column for each category of the rubric:

<h1 style="text-align: center;">Amnesiac</h1> <p style="text-align: center;">By: Takeacake (Jamaica)</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">PROMPT: Friendship Narrative</p> <hr/> <p>Joe's eyes popped open. He sat up in his bed and frantically searched the area he occupied; a plain, eggshell-coloured room. He squinted down at his lap as he felt a sudden migraine overcome him. He reached up to cradle his head and discovered medical bandages wrapped around his skull. The room was devoid of anything but a very vivid opening paragraph. A male freckled-face girl. Joe had a general vision at his bedside.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">"Good afternoon. Bad dream?" She said.</p>	<p><b>Story Ideas and Content</b> Level: Exceptional</p> <p>This story already has so much excellent characterization in it. Even for a story with less "action" in it than most, the inner life of the protagonist is already so vivid and telling into the psyche of this person who is fading from himself.</p> <hr/> <p><b>Narrative Structure and Organization</b> Level: Capable</p> <p>There is some room for tightening the story. In revision, you might try either leaning into the narrative past in more detail (a bump on the head after chasing a cat seems little too convenient/unbelievable) or less</p>
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## Rubrics

As the manager of your own writing group, you can draw on any of our rubrics or create your own to help guide the writing and reviewing process within your classroom. Write the World rubrics are designed to promote deeper student reflection, and to offer a tool for formative assessment. Created around specific writing assignments, the levels within each rubric are genre specific. All of Write the World's rubrics are entirely adaptable. Depending on your needs, you can utilize our rubrics in their current form, or change the criteria and/or performance levels.

In the sample rubric below, you can see the performance levels for one of the criteria ("Ideas and Content"):

[EDIT RUBRIC DETAILS](#)[PRINT RUBRIC](#)[PROMPT OVERVIEW](#)

## CRITERIA

Click the name of any criteria to edit its details. To add more Criteria, click the button at the bottom of the page.

### Story Ideas and Content

[Delete this Criteria](#)

Description for Reviewers:

Description for Writers:

#### PERFORMANCE LEVELS:

Level 3:

**Exceptional**  
(3 points)

The story presents a strong or powerful theme in response to the prompt. The plot is compelling, seamlessly woven with elements that are fresh and inspired. Character development is deftly handled with well-chosen internal or external dialogue, descriptive details, and action for a selective cast of characters. The setting serves as a worthy backdrop for the plausible, gripping plot.

Level 2:

**Capable**  
(2 points)

The story presents a clear theme in response to the prompt. The plot is mostly compelling; the thematic elements are present though they could be better integrated with the plot. Character development is present and revealed through mostly appropriate dialogue, descriptors and action. The setting is well-chosen and helps to establish a plausible premise for the plot. There is some room to make the story ideas more integrated into the plot.

Level 1:

**Developing**  
(1 point)

The story presents an emerging theme, though its treatment is somewhat vague or obvious. The plot is somewhat compelling, though needs more precise development of beginning, middle, and end. Thematic elements need to be integrated into the storyline so that they do not distract from the plot. Characters need to

## START A WRITING GROUP

By starting a private writing group, you can:

- Create Content: Select from our [collection of prompts](#) or create your own assignments, including daily exercises, formal assessments, and projects that support your curriculum goals.
- Give Feedback: Design your own rubrics or use one from our collection to offer students qualitative feedback through expert review
- Manage Peer Reviews: Design peer review questions to scaffold the [feedback process](#), and monitor the exchange of reviews between your students.
- Chart progress. Access your students' full drafting and revision process, while observing their long-term growth through their writing portfolios.





GO TO GROUPS

REQUEST A GROUP

Please note that, unless otherwise stated, group managers are not affiliated with Write the World. Please report any offensive or dubious material to Write the World immediately via [hello@writetheworld.com](mailto:hello@writetheworld.com) or Flag the piece within the website. Please exercise usual internet safety precautions regarding privacy and personal information. Remember that people using the internet are not always who they say they are. For further details on internet safety go to: <http://www.childnet.com/young-people/secondary>.

## WRITING CLUB RESOURCES

Start a Write the World Writing Club



Starting a writing club at your school, library, or organization provides students with a space to explore writing and creativity, free from the pressure of classroom assignments and grades. Sounds great, right? But where to begin? A Write the World Writing Club Starter Pack gives you all the tools and resources you need to develop and lead a writing club for students ages 13–18.

It includes:

- an online space for sharing work and peer review among club members
- a meeting plan you can follow (or use as a template to tailor your own)
- writing prompts and icebreakers to warm up the writing muscles
- genre guides that inspire young writers to explore and experiment with different types of writing
- tips and questions for leading a peer review discussion
- tips for goal setting

Here's How to Start

1. [Sign up](#) for a Write the World Educator's account and go to the [Groups Page](#) and click "Request a Group" at the top of the page. Please include "Writing Club Request" in the description of how you intend to use the group.
2. Within three business days, you'll receive an invite to manage your Writing Club Group. You'll also receive a separate email with quick instructions to help you set up your group.

3. Use the Meeting Guide, Genre Guide, and Peer Review Guide found in your group resources to lead meetings and help your club members explore different genres they may be interested in writing.
4. Recruit your club members, and start writing!

Questions? Need help getting started? Please contact our Community Director, Anna Williams at [anna@writetheworld.com](mailto:anna@writetheworld.com).

## OUR JOURNALS

We offer two different journal formats featuring the best work from our site for your use in the classroom.

- [Write the World: Young Writers Across the Globe, Volumes 1 and 2](#): Add these beautiful, physical copies featuring the work of young writers from all over the world to your classroom libraries. The journals provide a rich source of exemplar student work that you can use in lesson plans.
- [Write the World Review](#): Our online journal, published several times a year, features a curated selection of current writing from our site and offers opportunities for publication for your students. Your students can submit simply by responding to prompts on our site.

# WRITE the WORLD REVIEW

A JOURNAL SHOWCASING THE BEST YOUNG WRITERS AGES 13-18

ISSUE 1.1

LETTER FROM  
the EDITOR

Welcome to the inaugural issue of *Write the World Review*.

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[Read what people are saying about Write the World](#)

WORDS ARE POWERFUL. When joining the Write the World community, students are directed to our [Writing Guidelines](#) for details on publishing on the platform.