



Truth-Telling in Creative Writing: Using Poetry & Fiction to Tell Charged Stories

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WHO WE ARE

At The Telling Room, we empower youth through writing and share their voices with the world.

As a literary arts education organization focused on young writers ages 6 to 18, we seek to build confidence, strengthen literacy skills, and provide real audiences for our students. We believe that the power of creative expression can change our communities and prepare our youth for success both now and in the future.



Let's talk about reading & writing in the classroom.

A 2018 study published in the *Journal of Experimental Psychology* found that:



Fiction is proven to be more effective in fostering social cognition than nonfiction and not reading at all.



Let's talk about reading & writing in the classroom.

A survey of over 1,000 students by 826 National in 2024 found that:



80% of students across all grades spend less time writing than the recommended amount for 1st graders (60 minutes daily).



Only 11% of students engage in creative writing weekly.



And, when it comes to access to diverse stories and texts, students give their classrooms a D- (63%) grade.



Let's talk about writing in the classroom.



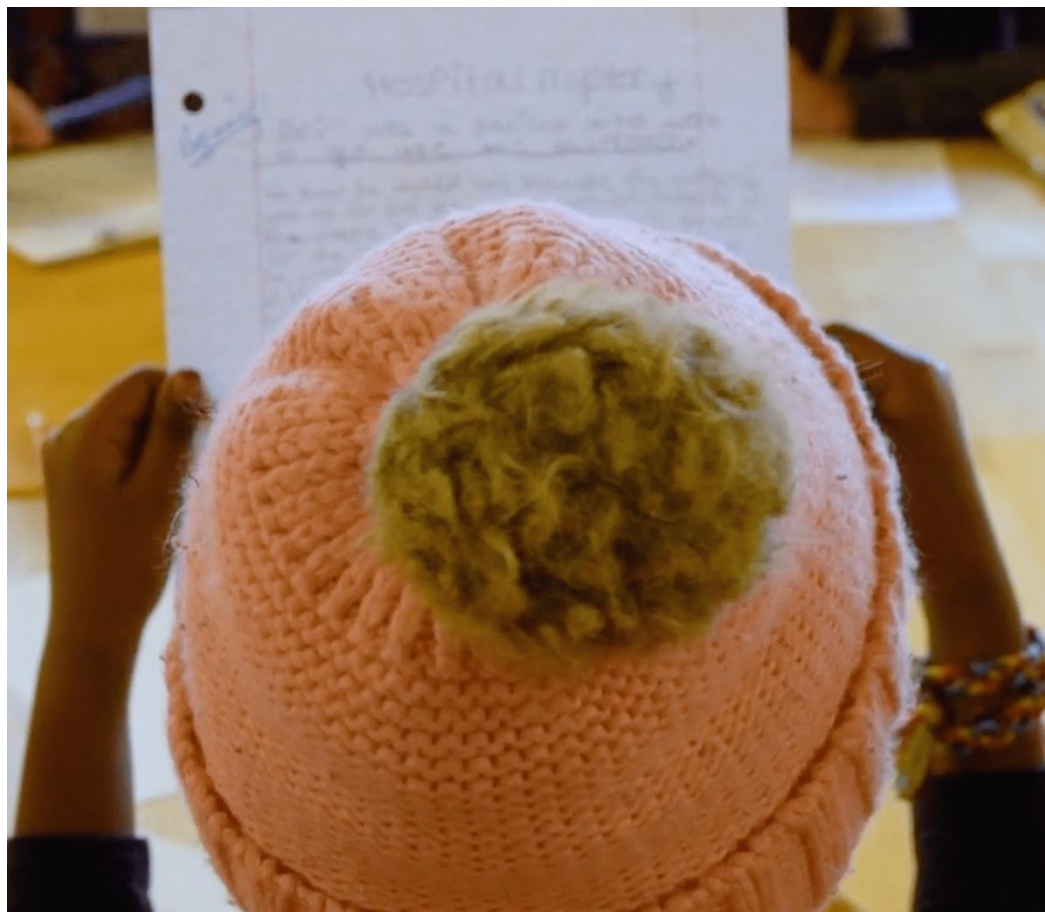
Most students (59%) spend less than 15 minutes writing for their own purposes.

When they do, they choose to write in genres that are different from what they engage with in the classroom (creative writing, personal narrative, poetry)





Quick Writes: Sensory Detail



- **The smell of *smoke***
- **The sound of *a crowd***
- **The touch of *an animal's fur***
- **The taste of *grandmother's cooking***
- **The sight of *home***

Turn to a partner and share one line or phrase from your piece.



10 life changing moments

Writing for Different Audiences



Writing for myself: journaling, diary entries.
Writing that's just for me.



Writing for a verbal audience: comfortable
sharing with other people aloud



Writing for publication: Permanence
of piece, opening it up to a larger
audience (least amount of control
over where and how it's being read)





Write your own list of 10 life changing moments

What form will your writing take?

Poetry?

Fiction?

Letter? (Epistolary)

Sci-fi?

Fantasy?

Horror?

Personal Narrative?

Memoir?

How-to/Instruction manual?

Repurpose an existing document?





Stepping Stones
Stepping Stones

FROM
THE EDGE
OF THE
WORLD

FROM THE EDGE OF THE WORLD

FROM THE EDGE OF THE WORLD

FROM THE EDGE OF THE WORLD



Let's return to our own writing.



Reflections