

# YOUNG Writers



A Creative Writing Workshop for Middle School Students

Saturday, June 7 & 14, 2025

9:30am– Noon

Hosted by the TCNJ English Department

*Free Registration*

For the first 25 students to sign-up

**Register Online at: <https://bit.ly/TCNJYoungWriters-MS2025>**

**9:30-10:00: Getting Started**

Collaborative writing games, icebreakers, and inspiration! Enjoy some bagels and OJ to start the day, as we get to know each other and jumpstart our creativity.

**10:00-10:30 Get Inspired with Creative Journaling**

How do authors get ideas? Where does writing come from? Come try out techniques that authors of exciting fiction and poetry use to generate their ideas. We will roll up our sleeves and try out a range of creative exercises, some individual and some in a group, guaranteed to inspire new ideas. Nature observation, improv writing games, writing to music and alongside visual art, and more. Practice with confidence! This workshop will give you an opportunity to try out lots of new ideas.

**10:30-11:30: Honing Our Craft: Poetry and Fiction Writing in Small Groups**

Rotate in small groups between two craft workshops, one in poetry and one in fiction writing, led by TCNJ Creative Writing Faculty and local Teaching Artists (published authors and seasoned teachers). Topics will include:

How to find and develop your unique voice as a young writer

A close look at the exciting forms poetry can take on and off the page

How to sharpen your use of setting and character in your storytelling

The writing process, from drafting to developing to revising

...and more!



**11:30-Noon: Writing in Community: Supportive and Meaningful Feedback**

We'll break up into small groups and everyone will have the chance to share something you wrote today. We'll discuss and practice giving and receiving supportive, meaningful feedback. We'll end with a group reading and celebration of our many voices!

**Questions: [deptengl@tcnj.edu](mailto:deptengl@tcnj.edu)**

The Young Writers Workshop is supported in part by a Mercer County Local Art Program Grant.