

## CREATIVE WRITING CLUB (CWC)

The UC Blue Ash Creative Writing Club (CWC), facilitated by the Writing & Study Skills Center, is open to all UC Blue Ash students interested in writing poetry, prose, scripts, song lyrics, graphic novels, and other genres. We foster a supportive artistic community that empowers students to experiment, learn, grow, and share their creative writing skills. We practice asking for and providing constructive feedback and share opportunities for students to build their professional writing resumes. CWC began in Spring 2018.

### Events & Collaborations

- **CWC presented its inaugural Fall Semester Showcase** on December 4, 2018. Five students presented their creative works in a professional reading located in the Bleeker Street Café Common Area. Students gained skills of writing bios, collecting and sequencing work, and creating artist statements to describe their pieces. This event helped students to connect to others on campus.

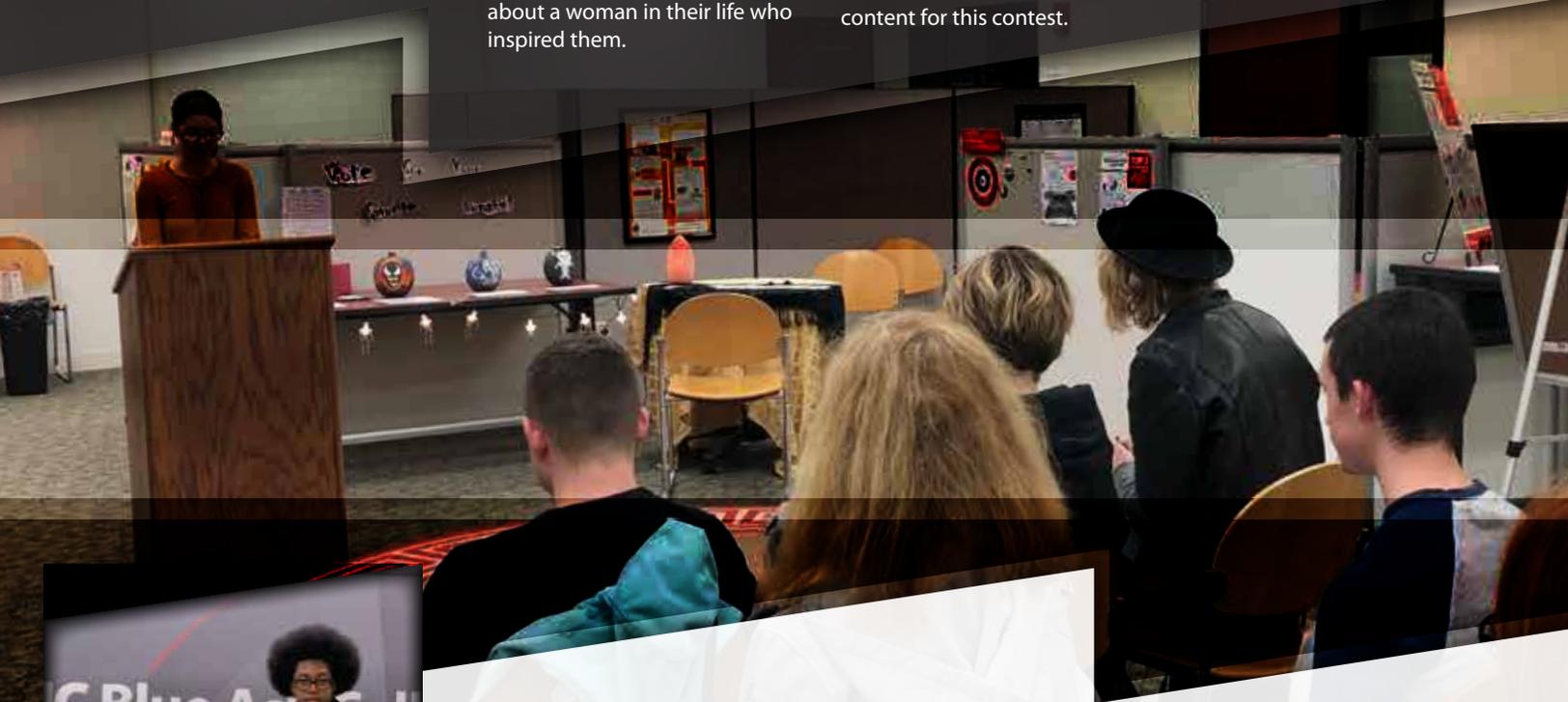
As one writer put it, "People I don't know tell me, 'I saw you on stage and you are phenomenal writer!'"

- **Cincinnati Poet Laureate Manuel Iris visited CWC.**
- CWC students participated as **Women of the World Table Volunteers** on March 8, 2019 as part of **International Women's Day Celebration**. They helped students, staff, and faculty write about a woman in their life who inspired them.

- CWC participated in a new **student-initiated collaboration between The Activist and Creative Writing Club** to create a "Featured Literature" column. CWC members submitted content for this column; four CWC students were published.

- CWC collaborated with the English Conversation Group, also facilitated by the WSSC, for the **2019 Cultural Talent Show** to celebrate the 2019 World Fest. CWC members submitted content for this contest.

- CWC students were recruited to submit to the newly formed **Creative Works Category in the UCBA Mediated Minds undergraduate research conference**. Three CWC students were accepted to present at Mediated Minds on April 19, 2019.



### Publishing / Presentation / Contests

Six CWC members enjoyed publication or presentation of their creative work in 2018-19. One member was published in four separate venues.

#### At UC Blue Ash:

- 4 CWC members were published in *the Activist* "Featured Literature" column
- 3 members presented at the Mediated Minds Conference
- CWC member placed 2nd in the WSSC Fall Scary Story Contest
- CWC member placed 1st in the WSSC Spring Flash Fiction Contest

#### In the Cincinnati Community

- 1 CWC member was published in the *SOS Arts Cincinnati For A Better World 2019*

#### In the Literary Community:

- 1 CWC member was published in *Exoplanet Magazine*

#### Peer Education

- One student designed and led a workshop on World Building to the CWC

"The CWC brought me opportunities to submit and publish my work as a writer!"



## Students believe CWC changes them as writers. They say the CWC...

- ... helped me look at my poetry in different ways and gave me the confidence to challenge my writing skills and use different forms.
- ... kept writing on my mind more consistently than ever, causing me to write on most days, even if it is garbage.
- ... gets me more excited to start writing.
- ... brought me to more genres.
- ... taught me more about what goes into a good story.
- ... gives me challenges and helps me become a better writer and listener overall.
- ... opened me up as a writer
- ... gave me a creative outlet I didn't think I would be interested in
- ... gave me the ability to creatively write out my ideas and build upon it.
- ... made me more diverse in my writing styles.

CWC Participation	Fall '18	Spring '19
# of Sessions	14	13
Max Attendees	9	6
Min Attendees	3	2
# of Students Attending at least one session of CWC	18	11
Average # of sessions attended	4.8	4.1
Number of students attending at least half the sessions	4 (22%)	3 (27%)
Number of students attending only 1 session	4 (22%)	4 (36%)
Number of students returning from previous semesters	3 (17%)	5 (46%)
Number of new students	15 (83%)	7 (64%)
Number of CWC student sessions at the WSSC	16 sessions by 4 students	25 sessions by 6 students

## Students believe being connected to a writerly community created positive changes in their writing and their lives as writers. They say that the CWC community...

- ... has really opened me up and helped remove not only writing blocks but in turn, helped some mental blocks in my life. When I'm struggling with mental issues or emotions, putting it into words helps so much.
- ... has influenced me to write more frequently and with more purpose.
- ... makes me want to write more
- ... opened me up to feedback. Different perspectives can be both scary and nice.
- ... made me feel more confident in myself.
- ... showed me the awesome stories my peers were writing, and they inspired me to be more consistent when it comes to writing down my own stories.

## Facilitators' Highlights

Things happen in CWC that defy quantification, moments which capture the impact of the social connections and support students create in this kind of community. We feel the Creative Writing Club is a model expression of UC's core values of inclusivity, innovation, and impact.

**These are a few of our favorite moments:**

One of our members has mobility issues. Early on in Fall 2018, another member offered to walk this student to her next class to make sure she got there ok.

A student approached me after a CWC meeting to ask me to sign a form documenting her attendance for one of her classes. I said, "I hope you will still come to group even though you have met this requirement." She said, "Oh yes. My life has purpose now." A naturally quiet and shy student, she seemed to be communicating that this group gave her a sense of belonging and something to look forward to each week. Midway through fall, we started to notice more CWC students – who had not before visited the Writing & Study Skills Center for sessions with tutors – scheduling appointments to discuss not only their schoolwork but their creative writing.

I walked into group one day to overhear the students engaged in an organic discussion about what inspires them to write. Another time, when I first arrived, the students were involved in a conversation. I heard a student reveal personal identity information that the rest of the students accepted without pause. I got the sense that students are feeling "safe" in this group.

Early on, students were reticent to speak with authority about the kind of feedback they wanted from their peers. As the year progressed, we saw them taking greater ownership over this process.

A student proposed and facilitated her first creative writing workshop in CWC!

As the year progressed, we noticed students growing increasingly excited about sharing their work with the creative community. For example, a student who was unable to attend group one week dropped in during the middle of the meeting to ask for more information about the Mediated Minds Conference. He was accepted to present his work.

A student who has been coming to CWC since Spring 2018 read her work aloud for the first time in Fall 2018. It was a good reminder that students need time to feel safe to share their work.

