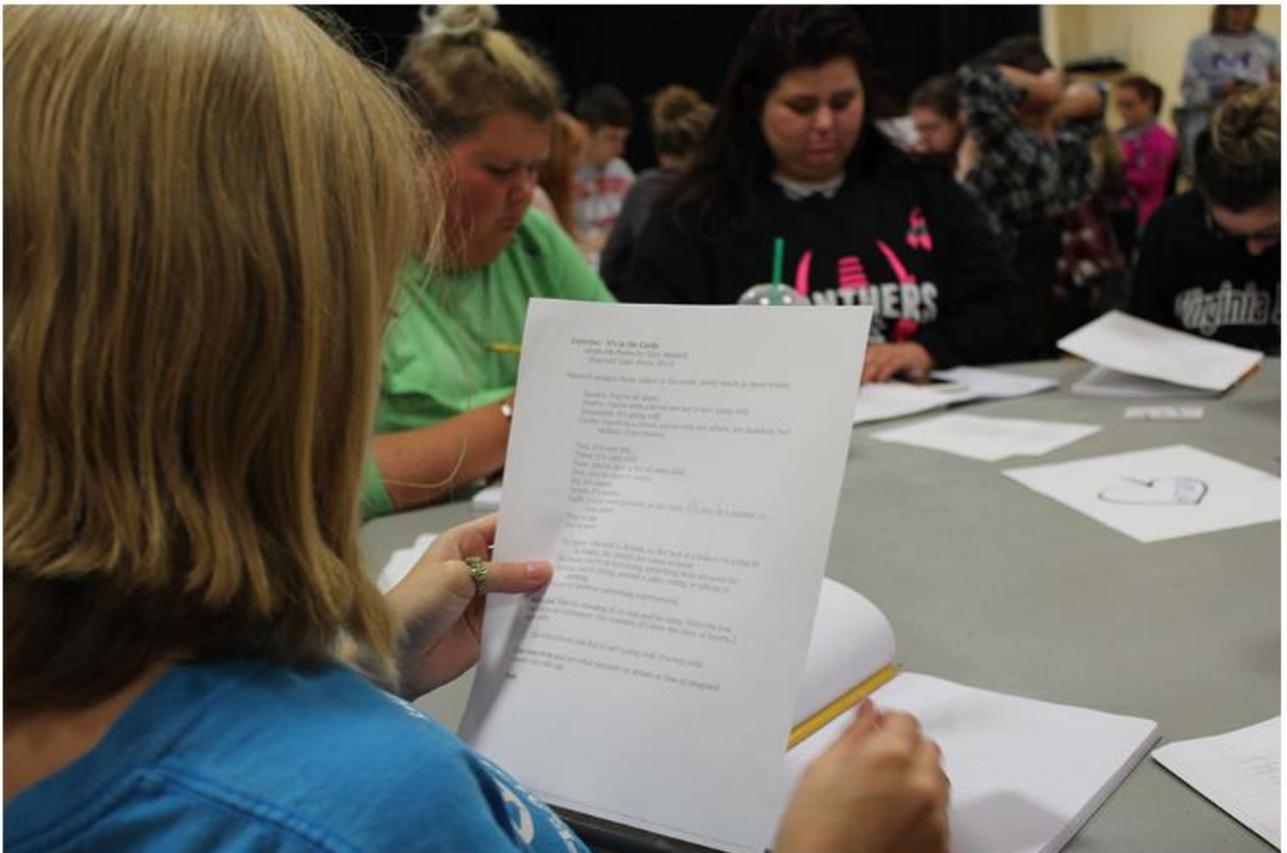


# The Morehead News

## Teen writers unleashed at MSU

By Megan Smedley Oct 24, 2016



Over 150 students gathered at Morehead State on Thursday for Teen Writer's Day Out, an event hosted by the Morehead Writing Project. Students participated in writing exercises and had opportunities to share their writing in small groups and at an open mic. (Photo by Megan Smedley)

Over 150 students from across Bath, Boyd, Fleming, Montgomery, and Rowan counties participated in Thursday's Teen Writer's Day Out (TWDO) at Morehead State University.

The Morehead Writing Project, whose mission is to improve student writing achievement by improving the teaching of writing in Eastern Kentucky schools, has hosted the biannual event since 2012.

The Morehead Writing Project (MWP) is a state and federally funded program that focuses on helping eastern Kentucky teachers become better writers and teachers of writing.

MWP fellows meet daily during a month-long invitational summer institute, where participants are offered professional development on writing instruction by peers and daily opportunities to write independently.

Brandie Trent, a teacher at Fleming County High School and coordinator of TWDO, says, "Research shows that students who have fun writing and are comfortable writing perform better on standardized writing assessments, such as the Kentucky On-Demand Assessment. More importantly, though, is the fact that these students will be more eager learners overall."

Admission to the event was \$20 per student.

Students participated in multiple independent and group writing activities that led to opportunities for the sharing of student writing in small group sessions and with an open mic.

"The only thing that was more impressive than the line was the enthusiastic audience of peers," says Jim Grayson, who teaches at Montgomery County High School.

Dozens of students shared their writing at each open mic opportunity.

One student said, "My poetry has never been the best, but never have I been more accepted than when sharing at Teen Writer's Day Out today. It is such a loving atmosphere."

Another said, "After going to Teen Writer's Day Out, I will definitely be writing more often. I have always loved to write, but I've never had the guts to admit it."

Lindsay Johnson, a Rowan County Senior High School English teacher, says, "RCSHS has had students attend since the first TWDO. We keep going back because at each one we see our students empowered as writers and taking part in the wiring community fostered by the MWP."

"TWDO is always a success. The students make it a success. They participate fully, try new types of writing, take creative risks, and share generously," says Trent.

The next TWDO will be held in the spring, and teachers at the event say that students have already asked if they can attend next year.

For more information on TWDO and the MWP, visit [www.moreheadwritingproject.org](http://www.moreheadwritingproject.org).

Url: [http://www.themoreheadnews.com/news/teen-writers-unleashed-at-msu/article\\_835b5ffa-9a21-11e6-84bf-3ba965e35e9a.html](http://www.themoreheadnews.com/news/teen-writers-unleashed-at-msu/article_835b5ffa-9a21-11e6-84bf-3ba965e35e9a.html)