



VOLUNTEER MENU

Spring 2012

Become a part of the StudioSTL Volunteer Community and inspire young minds! For more information on all opportunities, please send an e-mail to info@studiostl.org.

MENTORING OPPORTUNITIES*

StudioSTL Young Writers Series, a/k/a Saturdays @ The Studio

Join the StudioSTL mentoring community and work with our group of brilliant writers, ages 6 – 11, for another season of writing! **Every Saturday, 10 – noon, at StudioSTL. January 21 – April 28.**

StudioSTL After-School

StudioSTL takes its creative writing programs on the road! After-school opportunities help kids build their writing skills. **Monday – Thursday (times vary)**

Video Storytelling

Work with teen video producers to research and produce video documentaries throughout the Grand Center Arts District. **Beginning February 2012, one day/week after-school and some Saturday mornings.**

ONE-TIME EVENTS!

Show Your Spots Journal Workshop with “Cheetah Girls” Author Deborah Gregory!

Help out at our one-time Cheetah Girls workshop complete with fashion show
Saturday, February 25, 12:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

WordFest!

The Olympics of Word Games! Competitive Scrabble, Scattergories, Boggle....Lots of opportunities with our biggest fundraiser of the year.

Saturday, April 14, 5:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.

INTERNSHIPS!

Program, Marketing, Development & Administration Internships

Learn the “back-end” of non-profit service through a volunteer internship! Lots of responsibility with structured, meaningful opportunities to make a difference or gain experience in a focused area. Must be available five hours each week with reliable transportation.

*Unless otherwise noted, all opportunities take place at the StudioSTL Writing Center, 3547 Olive Street, Suite 300, in Grand Center – near the Fox Theatre.

StudioSTL delivers a comprehensive “web” of free writing programs for St. Louis youth, ages 6 to 18. Our programs are designed to engage young people in unique writing experiences that keep them coming back as members of the StudioSTL community to polish their skills by writing in different forms, with different writers and in different settings.

StudioSTL writing programs are founded on the following “three R’s,” which we believe are essential to improving written communication skills, while developing a clear and confident writing voice.

RICH Young writers will enjoy a writing experience that is unique, age-appropriate and challenging. Writers will be able to express themselves in writing in a nurturing and safe creative environment.

RELEVANT All writing will focus on individual self-expression. Writing will be personally meaningful to the young writer based on his/her skill level, needs and interest.

REWARDING All writing will be project-based. Each writer will earn a high-quality, tangible “reward” for engaging in the writing process.

WRITING PROGRAMS

1) STUDIOSTL ANTHOLOGY SERIES & BOOK PUBLISHING

High school and middle school students at selected schools
In-class, two-semester, weekly writing sessions beginning in October

The StudioSTL Anthology series is a long-term book project designed to immerse high school juniors in all aspects of the writing process. For two school semesters, StudioSTL mentors work in small, weekly mentoring sessions using professional “writer’s workshop” techniques that emphasizes peer discussion, individual coaching and feedback. Students explore their individual writing style, including their preferences for writing tools, places to write, genres, subject matter, etc. Students draft and polish writing for publication in professional-quality books that are offered for sale at area retailers, including Borders and Barnes & Noble.

StudioSTL Anthology I: Self-portraits (published June 2007)

Selected essays and poetry written by forty high school students enrolled in college prep organization, College Bound St. Louis. Students attended University City High School and Clyde C. Miller Career Academy during the 2006/2007 school year.

How My Life Has Been Since I Got Older (published June 2008)

Selected essays and poetry on issues of identity and family written by seventh-grade students at Curtis Bishop Middle School, Wellston, Missouri during the 2007/2008 school year.

StudioSTL Anthology II (to publish May 2009)

A collection of essays and poetry written by sixty high school juniors enrolled in American Literature classes at Clyde C. Miller Career Academy, St. Louis Public School District.

2) STUDIOSTL MAGAZINE

High school and middle school students

On-line submissions and writing collected from StudioSTL writing workshops

A high-quality literary magazine published periodically to collect a wide range of polished writing from young voices in the Midwest. The magazine showcases student work from StudioSTL writing workshops, and also offers young people and educators the opportunity to showcase and publish independent and classroom writing.

3) SATURDAYS @ THE STUDIO

Two-hour creative writing workshops for all area youth, targeted to specific age groups Saturday workshops held at StudioSTL

The StudioSTL Saturday Workshop series explore a variety of writing possibilities with professional writers and artists. Young writers work one-on-one with mentors to draft, draw and polish pieces in a host of genres, including songwriting, comics & cartooning, advertising, and even writing for a pet! The Saint Louis University Undergraduate English Club partners with StudioSTL to provide top-notch writing mentors and program ideas.

4) SUMMER CAMP

Two four-week writing sessions in June and July for targeted age groups, sessions held at StudioSTL

Young people explore a specific writing topic – journalism, creative nonfiction, fiction – in twice-weekly writing sessions. The StudioSTL Press Corps has published two editions of the Tall Tale Truth newspaper. The Freedom School Press Corps has published two editions of Free Time-z. StudioSTL summer journalism camps offer young people the opportunity to work with professional journalists to hone their interview skills, learn news and editorial writing, newspaper design and layout. In 2009, StudioSTL will take its newspaper on-line with the introduction of blogging, podcasting and video-podcasting.

5) RANDOM ACTS OF WRITING

After-school creative writing sessions for targeted age groups

Sessions held at schools and partner sites

StudioSTL brings writing services to young people in their after-school programs. Writers and mentors work with young people to engage in storytelling and bookmaking. StudioSTL currently works with the 21st Century after-school program at Dunbar Elementary in the city of St. Louis.

6) WRITING OUTREACH

Selected community programs targeted to specific age groups to address identified needs

Sessions held at community partner sites

Short-term writing workshops with selected community partners designed to empower and enhance the experience of youth who are involved in another community organization. Examples include a StudioSTL partnership with SLIP, the St. Louis Internship Program, to prepare ninth-graders for the SLIP essay requirement; a collaboration with Beaumont High School to produce a “scrapbook” of memories from a student trip to the Obama inauguration.

7) GET THE WORD OUT

Selected literary events to create awareness about StudioSTL, while sharing the joy of words and writing

Events held at StudioSTL and throughout the St. Louis metropolitan region

StudioSTL gets young people, mentors and members of its writing community involved in community events, including the annual Big Read Literary Festival and the First Night New Year’s Eve Celebration. StudioSTL hosts student readings and release parties, and sponsors exhibits and booths at local literary fairs and carnivals.

HOW CAN I GET INVOLVED?

As a creative community, StudioSTL offers a variety of ways for volunteers to share their love of writing with young people, or to become involved behind the scenes. Because StudioSTL heavily relies on the dedicated efforts of our volunteer staff to inspire the youth we serve, we firmly believe that the best “fit” depends on discovering the perfect spot for our volunteers to share their passion, creativity and good works.

A FEW QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER -

WHAT TIME DO YOU HAVE AVAILABLE?

StudioSTL offers long-term opportunities that build relationships with young people with our book projects and after-school work. Can you commit to a school-year long, weekly writing sessions during the day?

AVAILABLE ONLY ON WEEKENDS?

Saturdays @ The Studio offers one-shot creative opportunities to “coach” a young person in a variety of creative ways. Community outreach programs offer short-term, creative possibilities to work with students.

DO YOU WANT TO WORK WITH YOUNG PEOPLE? DO YOU PREFER TO WORK BEHIND THE SCENES?

In addition to serving as writing mentors, StudioSTL volunteers serve an essential role in developing our vision of a St. Louis writing center. Members of our community help with marketing, fundraising, administration and staffing events.

WORRIED ABOUT SPECIFIC SKILLS? NEVER MENTORED OR COACHED?

We believe that trust and honesty are the cornerstones of building a mentor/writer relationship. At StudioSTL, writing often happens after a period of shared storytelling and connection. Our mentors often find that they do more listening and validating than actual writing or drawing. And, we offer periodic training sessions, refreshers, and roundtables so that our mentors can polish their skills.

DO YOU ENJOY WORKING WITH A SPECIFIC AGE GROUP?

StudioSTL programs generally target three age groups: elementary (6 to 9); middle (10 to 14); and high school (15 to 18). Sometimes we group middle schoolers and high schoolers. Are you particularly great at motivating a certain age group? Has your experience helped you identify with a certain age group?

DO YOU HAVE RELIABLE TRANSPORTATION? DO YOU LIKE TO GET UP EARLY?

Because we try to engage young people at every opportunity, StudioSTL often travels to our students. StudioSTL writing programs happen in a variety of places. Which is most convenient to you? Can you walk to the StudioSTL writing center in Grand Center? Our book projects usually happen early in the morning. Are you an early riser?

WHAT IS THE BEST I HAVE TO OFFER, AND HOW CAN I BEST SHARE IT WITH YOUNG PEOPLE?

What are your strengths? What do you LOVE to do, or what would you LOVE to do? Would you enjoy developing a writing workshop? Would you love to motivate a young person to believe in their own experience? Would you love to develop a new system for making an organization operate more efficiently? Would you love to write a cookbook, or stage a concert? How about serving on a StudioSTL Board committee?

Missouri State Highway Patrol / Missouri Department of Social Services
REQUEST FOR CHILD ABUSE OR NEGLECT / CRIMINAL RECORD

TYPE OF SERVICE (Check ALL that apply) See reverse side for further instructions. <input type="checkbox"/> (1) CD Central Registry Child Abuse Search Only - No Charge <input type="checkbox"/> (2) Name Search - \$10.00 (Criminal record, child abuse, or neglect, central registry search) <input type="checkbox"/> (3) Fingerprint Search <input type="checkbox"/> \$14.00 (Authorized Statute 210.487) <input type="checkbox"/> \$20.00 (All other request)	TYPE OF DAYCARE PROVIDER <input type="checkbox"/> (1) License <input type="checkbox"/> (2) License Exempt <input type="checkbox"/> (3) Registered
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IDENTIFYING DATA (Please type or print information legibly in ink.) The subject of the request must complete the next section and sign.

APPLICANT'S NAME (Last, First, MI, Jr., Sr., III)					
MAIDEN NAME	DATE OF BIRTH (MM/DD/YY)	STATE OF BIRTH	SEX	RACE	
ALIAS NAME(S)	SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER		DRIVER'S LICENSE NUMBER / STATE /		
ADDRESSES FOR PAST 5 YEARS					
STREET	CITY	STATE	STREET	CITY	STATE

Have you ever been found guilty to or been convicted of any criminal act in this state or any state?
 YES (Complete section below) NO, I have not been found guilty to or been convicted of any criminal offense in this state or any state.

DATE	CITY	STATE	COUNTY	CIRCUMSTANCES (Identify charges, attach separate page, if necessary.)

Have you ever been substantiated as a perpetrator in any child abuse or neglect report made to the Children's Division in this state or any state?
 YES (Complete section below) NO, I have not been substantiated as a perpetrator in any child abuse or neglect report.

DATE	CITY	STATE	COUNTY	CIRCUMSTANCES (Attach separate page, if necessary.)

The information provided is complete and accurate to the best of my knowledge. I understand it is unlawful to withhold or falsify information required on this form. I grant permission to the Department of Social Services to obtain any and all information needed to process my request and to use the information as permitted by law.

SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT (REQUIRED IN INK)	DATE
SIGNATURE OF REQUESTOR (Required in ink)	DATE
TITLE OF CHILD CARE PROVIDER	TELEPHONE
STATE AGENCY	STATE VENDOR OR CONTACT NO. (If applicable)

CHECK APPROPRIATE BOX

<input type="checkbox"/> CHILD CARE RELATED EMPLOYMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DOH / CCB CHILD CARE BUREAU	<input type="checkbox"/> SCHOOLS / PUBLIC AND PRIVATE
<input type="checkbox"/> CHILD CARE RELATED VOLUNTEER	<input type="checkbox"/> DMH / DMH VENDOR	<input type="checkbox"/> CD CONTRACT PROVIDER
<input type="checkbox"/> CD LICENSURE	<input type="checkbox"/> HEALTH CARE	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER _____

<p style="text-align: center;">COMPLETE RETURN ADDRESS (REQUIRED ON EACH APPLICATION) Complete your mailing label below Confidential Mail</p> <table border="1" style="width:100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr><td style="padding: 5px;">AGENCY NAME</td></tr> <tr><td style="padding: 5px;">ATTENTION</td></tr> <tr><td style="padding: 5px;">ADDRESS</td></tr> <tr><td style="padding: 5px;">CITY, STATE, ZIP CODE</td></tr> </table>	AGENCY NAME	ATTENTION	ADDRESS	CITY, STATE, ZIP CODE	<p>SEND FEE & FORM TO: Missouri State Highway Patrol Criminal Justice Information Services Division P.O. Box 9500 Jefferson City, MO 65102</p>
AGENCY NAME					
ATTENTION					
ADDRESS					
CITY, STATE, ZIP CODE					

The purpose of this form is to provide information available to child care agencies including volunteer agencies. The records you receive will be based on the search options you select. The Missouri State Highway Patrol will respond when you choose option 1 or 2. The Missouri Children's Division will respond when you choose option 1, 2, or 3. Direct questions regarding criminal records to the Missouri State Highway Patrol (573-526-6153); direct questions regarding child abuse or neglect to the Children's Division (573-526-1438, TT: 1-800-735-2466).

The information on this form, and responses generated as a result of this form, are confidential. Any person disclosing the information in violation of 43.540, 589.400, RSMo. and/or 210.150 RSMo. is guilty of a class A misdemeanor.

For information on how to participate in the Child Abuse/Neglect Central Registry examination program, submit a written request from the CEO, owner, director, etc. of your child care related group or organization to: **Director, Children's Division, P.O. Box 88, Jefferson City, MO 65103.**

PROCESSING FEE SCHEDULE INFORMATION (43.527 AND 43.530 RSMo.)

By checking boxes 1 thru 3 on the front page of this form, the following applies:

1. Name Search - \$10.00 Provides open records obtained from the Missouri Criminal Record Repository and information from Missouri Children's Division Central Registry.
 - a) Complete the request form.
 - b) Make a check or money order for \$10.00 payable to "State of Missouri Criminal Records System."
 - c) Mail completed form and check or money order to: **Missouri State Highway Patrol, Criminal Justice Information Services Division, P.O. Box 9500, Jefferson City, MO 65102.**

2. Fingerprint Search - \$14.00/\$20.00 Provides open and closed records with positive identification obtained from the Missouri Criminal Records Repository and information from Missouri Children's Division Central Registry.
 - a) Complete the request form.
 - b) Obtain fingerprints on: Applicant card FD-258 or Patrol card SHP-152. Official taking fingerprints must verify identity of person fingerprinted with an official id such as a driver's license and sign the card as the person taking the fingerprints. Complete the rest of the card as applicable.
 - c) Make a check or money order for \$14.00/\$20.00 payable to "State of Missouri Criminal Records System."
 - d) Mail completed forms and check or money order to: **Missouri State Highway Patrol, Criminal Justice Information Services Division, P.O. Box 9500, Jefferson City, MO 65102.**

3. CD Central Registry Child Abuse Search Only - No Charge Provides information obtained from the Children's Division Central Registry only. The Children's Division (CD) Central Registry screening will reflect information contained in the CD database. Any questions about the accuracy of that information should be directed to the CD office in the residential county of the applicant or the county of employment if the applicant is not a Missouri resident.
 - a) Complete the request form.
 - b) Mail completed form to: **Missouri Children's Division, Background Screening / Investigations Unit, P.O. Box 88, Jefferson City, MO 65103.**

OPEN RECORDS - convictions, charges pending, arrests less than thirty days old, and suspended imposition of sentence during probation.

CLOSED RECORDS - charges not filed, not prosecuted, dismissed, or subject found not guilty or suspended imposition of sentence after probation.

SPACE RESERVED FOR MSHP/CD RESPONSE STAMP



The StudioSTL Mentoring Model

1. Writer/mentors work in partnership with kids to provide personal attention, feedback, and validation.
2. The key to the mentor/student partnership is relationship. By establishing trusting relationships with students, they are able to share their “best” stories.
3. Writer/mentors direct the relationship based on each student’s individual needs and skills. While one student may need/desire more time to put pen to page, others may need time to talk. There is no right or wrong – every student should be able to find his or her way with our encouragement and validation.
4. What the student wants to write is up to him/her, given skills, comfort level, activities. If a student can only write a list, then that is acceptable, though we encourage more.
5. Writing is an art. We do not cross out, red pen, or criticize. We write in community, sharing ideas among the group with respect and admiration for all who have the courage to share their writing.
6. StudioSTL writer/mentors share themselves by taking part in the assignments, listening actively, encouraging, validating, being animated and silly when necessary. Our writer/mentors seek help from each other to find ways to bring out the very best in each student.
7. Our only rule, perhaps, is never, ever chat about a student to another student or to a writer/mentor – whether positive or negative – because such chat could be misconstrued and damaging.
8. We encourage students to throw everything onto the page without thinking about spelling or grammar. Conventional rules are dealt with last, depending on the child’s skill level.

Writer/Mentor Tip Sheet

Relationship Building – It's all about TRUST

1. Have fun and do the writing activities! While your student partner is writing, do the same activity – in the way YOU would tackle it. Would you first brainstorm ideas, draw, outline, and dive right in? Share your first draft and ask for input. Point out your mistakes and discuss together ways you might improve. If you are vulnerable and open to constructive criticism, your student partner will be to!
2. Ask, ask, ask questions! Get to know your student by asking background questions. Writing is about being vulnerable and trusting someone enough to share. Share your background, hopes, dreams, stories, silly things. Relate to their stories and emotions. Remember how awkward it could feel to be a middle schooler? Don't be afraid to ask them questions that seem irrelevant (even if they look at you like you have three heads). Does your teacher let you eat fruit snacks in class? Do they serve Papa John's pizza at school? Do you read serious books at school or do you get to choose what you want to read? (The more specific your questions, the more the student will open up and engage in conversation).
3. Start talking A LOT before writing. Even if your student doesn't talk, you can talk about yourself, about college, about your siblings, friends, favorite books, etc. It is normal for a middle schooler to look at you like you have three heads.
4. Ask permission to make changes or write on a student's work, whether they are drawing, doodling, or writing.
5. Be passionate about writing and words. Share your stories about why you're studying writing, English, what you love, what you hope to do in the future.
6. Let them know that there is absolutely nothing you would rather do on a Saturday morning than be partnering with them on writing. Be thrilled with everything they do (even if they look at you like you have three heads).
7. Supply answers to your own questions if they don't answer.
8. Be culturally sensitive. Ask them what they LOVE? A good starter/relationship question is: "If you got up one morning and could do anything you want, what would you do?" Tell them not to worry about money or driving or parents.
9. If kids are really stuck, then they're probably tackling too much. Make their topic smaller. Ask them to talk it out first or draw their thoughts. Write for them. Have them dictate their ideas and give them praise. They'll get going.

QUESTIONS FOR MENTORS IN WRITING WORKSHOPS

ASK A MILLION QUESTIONS. HERE ARE SOME TO HELP YOU.

GETTING STARTED:

1. How's it coming? Do you like what you have so far?
2. Can I help you with anything?
3. May I read to you what you have?
4. Is any part making you feel stuck?
5. You're really feeling stuck, aren't you? I know how that feels. Why don't you try to draw a picture first?
6. Tell you what, why don't I write a sentence, and then you write a sentence to get started.
7. Tell me about the most important thing you want to say.
8. What's your favorite part of your writing?

DEVELOPING IDEAS:

9. Do you think everything you have strengthens that point?
10. Should we add this? Do you think we should describe this person in more detail?
11. Are any parts not about the main point? Should we take them out?
12. Hmmm. I don't understand this part. Let me read it again. Why don't you tell me what you're thinking here?
13. Tell me in one short sentence what this story/poem is about.
14. What else do you know or think about this? What would be cool to add?
15. When I read this, I think about this...Is that what you meant?
16. Could we add some conversation here?
17. Should we use a line break here?
18. I can see this character as if she were standing right there, but I'm wondering if she has a poodle for a pet? Does she wear black glasses? Does she have a southern accent? I want to know everything about this character. Tell me the five most interesting and wacky things about him. Do you think he likes chocolate pudding?
19. I love what you've written. It makes me feel....It reminds me of the time when I....I think people will understand this....I think people will connect with this...
20. You have done such a great job. People are going to want to hear more. Let's make a list of things you could add.

ADVANCED/EDITING:

1. I love this sentence, but I think it's a bit too long (or too short)
2. Did you mean "their" instead of "they're"?
3. Do you think we could use a period here? a comma?
4. When do you use a comma? I forget?
5. What the heck is a semicolon? A colon?
6. What do you think about making a paragraph here? Should we indent? Why do you think we might want a paragraph here? Why in the world do people need paragraphs anyway?

A FEW MORE TIPS:

1. As much as possible let the students take the lead and ask for the help they need.
2. Establish eye contact.
3. Sit close and establish a partnership.
4. Make the writing come alive by talking or drawing – even if all the details won't make it into the final draft. This helps kids imagine and dream and come up with things they never thought possible.