

Dear Poets, Writers, Mentors, and Educators:

Arts Education: Mentoring Literacy Through Spoken Word is a unique initiative for Middle Tennessee and for the country. The seminar brings together Middle Tennessee's universities as a first step toward leveraging our collective resources to create spoken word poetry and hip hop education programming which leads the nation. This course also breaks new ground by bringing together top poet educators from around the country. These presenters have been critical in the revitalization of poetry as a contemporary art form and as an educational tool.

In this age of extensive on-line socializing, the spoken word poetry movement has created off-line vitality using the commonality of youth voice to cross traditional boundaries. It is appropriate that this seminar will bring together Middle Tennessee's college, high school, and middle school writers in realizing the mutual benefit of a constructive and supportive new community.

This year we are fortunate to have Stephanie Pruitt as the lead instructor in the seminar. Stephanie Pruitt has worked extensively as an artist educator in schools and recently completed her MFA from Vanderbilt University. She received the 2010 Academy of American Poets Prize, the 2009 Sedberry Prize, and was a finalist for Poets and Writers' Maureen Egen Award. *Essence Magazine*/*Essence.com* selected her as one of their "40 Favorite Poets" in 2010.

Our first year of this seminar was a tremendous success beginning with the entirely unique poet mentor community that we were able to convene. We look forward to bringing together the 15 to 20 college students who will continue to drive the creation of this new writer community in Middle Tennessee.

Due to the limited space in this course and screening requirements for the practicum component, we require an application and background check from students. Please return the enclosed application to Benjamin Smith at 1704 Charlotte Ave., Suite 200 Nashville, TN 37203; e-mail to info@youthspeaksnashville.org; or fax to 615.261.7864.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you would like to discuss the seminar further.

All the Best,



Benjamin Smith
Executive Director
Youth Speaks Nashville
1704 Charlotte Ave., Suite 200 - Nashville, TN 37203
615.686.5456 - info@youthspeaksnashville.org

**MENTORING LITERACY THROUGH SPOKEN WORD
APPLICATION**

APPLICANT INFORMATION

Last Name:		First Name:		M.I.:	
School:		Major:		Year:	
Street Address:		City:		Zip:	
Home Phone:		Cell or Message Phone:			
E-Mail Address:		Website:			
I am a (check all that apply):	<input type="checkbox"/> Poet	<input type="checkbox"/> Spoken Word Artist	<input type="checkbox"/> Emcee	<input type="checkbox"/> None	
Do you have reliable transportation?	<input type="checkbox"/> Car	<input type="checkbox"/> Bus	<input type="checkbox"/> Bike	<input type="checkbox"/> Other _____	
Ethnic Identity:					
<input type="checkbox"/> African - American	<input type="checkbox"/> Asian American		<input type="checkbox"/> Pacific Islander		
<input type="checkbox"/> White, Caucasian	<input type="checkbox"/> Mexican American, Chicano		<input type="checkbox"/> Latino		
<input type="checkbox"/> Multiracial/Multicultural	<input type="checkbox"/> Other _____		<input type="checkbox"/> Decline to State		
What languages do you speak?	<input type="checkbox"/> _____		<input type="checkbox"/> _____		
Professor Sponsor:					
Professor's Phone:		Professor's E-Mail:			

1. Why do you want to take this seminar?
2. What experience do you have working with high school and middle school youth?
3. Describe your experience writing creatively.
4. Who are your favorite music artists and what are your favorite songs?
5. Who do you think students are listening to in Middle Tennessee's high schools and middle schools?

Take no more than 10 minutes to write whatever you would like on this page.

Return to:
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