



## Impact Report from the Fall of 2019

In order for Writers in Residence to continue fulfilling its mission and vision, the program must remain data-driven and evidence-based. This impact report from the fall 2019 contains quantitative and qualitative survey summaries from most of the student volunteers and residents before and after the creative writing workshop. The data and evidence in this report affirm that as our program expands and develops more cohorts, trains and mentors more volunteers, and builds community with and advocates for more residents, the program's impact will continue to deepen.

4 Cohorts

29+ Student Volunteers

66+ Residents

72+ Hours

These totals above highlight our program's expansion and development of more college/university cohorts fulfilling our mission and vision at their local juvenile detention centers across Ohio.

If we compare these totals with the impact report from 2017, which marks the origin of the program, we see a tripling and quadrupling difference in the number of cohorts, student volunteers, residents, and service hours.

On the back of every survey administered to the residents is a Daly-Miller Writing Apprehension Test (WAT) that calculates how much apprehension an individual has toward writing by asking them to rank 26 responses with a 5 for strongly disagree to a 1 for strongly agree. Below are the following three levels of writing apprehension:

- High levels of writing apprehension score between 29-59.
- Moderate levels of writing apprehension score between 60-96.
- Low levels of writing apprehension score between 97-130.



## Survey Summary from the Cuyahoga Hills JCF

At the end of the first and last creative writing workshop, we ask the residents to complete a brief survey that provides us with feedback about their experience. A summarized comparison of those survey results are below.

1. 100% of residents agreed and strongly agreed that they liked the creative writing workshop. When asked to explain why, they said:
  - a. "The people."
  - b. "It frees me from my pain, [this] institution, and myself. It connects me with people who understand."
  - c. "It helps me learn more about writing and helps me express myself."
  - d. "I liked how we have fun and that's by reading poetry, writing our own and expressing ourselves."
  - e. "I learned a lot about my creative writing skills."
  - f. "It lets me express myself in different ways."
  - g. "It helps with getting better at writing."
  
2. 100% of residents agreed and strongly agreed that creative writing has impacted them. When asked to explain why, they said:
  - a. "Made me feel free again."
  - b. "I feel like I can really open up."
  - c. "It's impacted me a lot. My life has changed."
  - d. "It's helped me express myself."
  - e. "It has impacted my thinking and writing."
  - f. "It helps me feel about my creative spirit."
  - g. "It gave me different ways to think."
  - h. "[I] overcame my fear of stage fright."
  
3. When asked to explain what they learned from the creative writing workshop, the residents said:
  - a. "How to be more descriptive."
  - b. "I learned to be myself."
  - c. "Kindness, creativity, mind, love, and people who care."
  - d. "To express myself."
  - e. "To talk to people without throwing a fit, [to] take deep breaths and just relax."
  - f. "My weaknesses."
  - g. "Creative ways to write."
  
4. When asked to describe their favorite part of the creative writing workshop, the residents said:
  - a. "Six-word memoirs."
  - b. "When we go around the table sharing what we wrote."
  - c. "Poetry!"
  - d. "Working [with] people my age that care."
  - e. "Doing our plays."
  - f. "Getting to learn about other people's creative spirit."
  - g. "The time to sit and think for once."



5. When asked to describe Writers in Residence in their own words, the residents said:
  - a. "Perfect."
  - b. "Fun, educational, potential, talent, love, fresh air, freedom!"
  - c. "F\*\*\*ing awesome."
  - d. "Great, awesome, fun."
  - e. "One of a kind."
  - f. "Amazing."
  - g. "Very interesting."
  
6. 100% of residents agreed and strongly agreed that they would like to continue writing after their release with the program.

Post-WAT	Resident 1	Resident 2	Resident 3	Resident 4	Resident 5	Resident 6
1 I avoid writing. (+)	5	5	5	5	1	4
2 I have no fear of my writing being evaluated. (-)	1	1	1	1	1	4
3 I look forward to writing down my ideas. (-)	1	5	1	1	1	1
4 I am afraid of writing essays when I know they will be evaluated. (+)	5	5	5	5	3	1
5 Taking a writing course is a very frightening experience. (+)	4	5	5	3	5	1
6 Handing in my writing makes me feel good. (-)	1	1	1	5	1	1
7 My mind seems to go blank when I start to work on my writing. (+)	5	5	5	5	2	5
8 Expressing ideas through writing seems to be a waste of time. (+)	5	5	5	1	5	4
9 I would enjoy submitting my writing to magazines for evaluation and publication. (-)	1	1	1	1	1	1
10 I like to write down my ideas. (-)	1	1	1	1	1	1
11 I feel confident in my ability to express my ideas clearly in writing. (-)	1	1	1	1	1	1
12 I like to have my friends read what I have written. (-)	2	1	1	5	1	1
13 I'm nervous about writing. (+)	4	5	5	5	2	4
14 People seem to enjoy what I write. (-)	3	1	1	1	1	1
15 I enjoy writing. (-)	1	1	1	1	1	1
16 I never seem to be able to write down my ideas clearly. (+)	5	5	5	2	3	4
17 Writing is a lot of fun. (-)	1	1	1	2	1	1
18 I expect to do poorly in writing classes even before I enter them. (+)	4	1	5	2	5	4
19 I like seeing my thoughts on paper. (-)	2	1	1	1	1	1
20 Discussing my writing with others is enjoyable. (-)	1	1	1	3	1	1
21 I have a terrible time organizing my ideas in a writing course. (+)	3	5	5	5	3	4
22 When I hand in my writing, I know I'm going to do poorly. (+)	5	5	5	3	5	4
23 It's easy for me to produce good writing. (-)	2	1	4	2	3	1
24 I don't think I write as well as most other people. (+)	3	1	3	3	2	4
25 I don't like my writing to be evaluated. (+)	3	5	5	5	5	4
26 I'm not good at writing. (+)	5	5	5	5	3	4
<b>PSVs</b>	56	57	63	49	44	47
<b>NSVs</b>	18	17	16	25	15	16
<b>WAT Score</b>	116	118	125	102	107	109

The John Carroll University (JCU) cohort worked with 18 residents, 6 of whom were released, and 2 of whom maintain contact with the program. The average post-WAT score was 112, which indicated that the residents still had low levels of writing apprehension at the end of the creative writing workshop. However, low levels of writing apprehension may cause residents to become unmotivated to work on their writing or consider recommendations for their writing, which is why we design a new, engaging curriculum for every creative writing workshop during the fall and spring semesters where the residents will use previously learned creative writing techniques to produce more creative writing that will capture their personal growth and development as a writer. As long as we continue to engage, critique, and validate their creative writing, then the residents' creative writing will improve as well as their character. Since the surveys are voluntary, these results are inconclusive because not every resident will complete the surveys as well as the WAT. This survey data only approximates how much the residents' levels of writing apprehension changed from the first to the last creative writing workshop.



## **Survey Summary from the Lorain County JDH**

At the end of the first and last creative writing workshop, we ask the residents to complete a brief survey that provides us with feedback about their experience. A summarized comparison of those survey results are below.

1. 84% of residents agreed and strongly agreed that they liked the pilot creative writing workshop.
2. 90% of residents agreed and strongly agreed that they liked the creative writing workshop. When asked to explain why, they said:
  - a. "Fun and a good way to express yourself."
  - b. "Gives me a chance to express [my] feelings in a different way."
  - c. "Because I like what we talk about and what we do. They are so cool."
  - d. "I like the writing group because it's stress relief and it's fun talking about [stuff]."
  - e. "Explained useful tips I can use in the future when writing."
  - f. "It brought light to a dark place."
  - g. "I like it because people come to see us."
  - h. "Helped me write letters."
  - i. "The group was extremely helpful in all of the writing."
  - j. "Builds character."
3. 57% of residents agreed and strongly agreed that creative writing has impacted them. When asked to explain why, they said:
  - a. "It helped me express my real feelings."
  - b. "They help me with any problems. It helps me feel better about myself."
  - c. "Helped me understand poems."
  - d. "It keeps me outta trouble."
  - e. "Helped me expand my mind [through] writing."
  - f. "I won't come back to jail."
  - g. "They made me realize that imma better person."
  - h. "They made me become a better person."
4. When asked to explain what they learned from the creative writing workshop, the residents said:
  - a. "Never be afraid to share what you wrote."
  - b. "To not hold back."
  - c. "Different ways to write."
  - d. "It helps me write and express myself and feel good."
  - e. "I learned [more] about plays [and how to] write in here."
  - f. "Stanzas."
  - g. "Be respectful at all times."
  - h. "Vocabulary matters. Transitions matter."
  - i. "I used to think I did not know how to read but when I sat to read I know how to read."
  - j. "My self-worth."
  - k. "How to write positive letters."
  - l. "How to write poetry in depth."



5. When asked to describe their favorite part of the creative writing workshop, the residents said:
  - a. "Poems and using six-words to express feelings."
  - b. "The actual writing part."
  - c. "Talking to Olivia, Laila, and Zach."
  - d. "You guys interacting [with us] and always having activities."
  - e. "Just getting to talk."
  - f. "When we read stories."
  - g. "The movie parts."
  - h. "Outsiders coming to talk to us."
  - i. "The help of everyone."
  - j. "Haiku."
  - k. "Group conversations."
  
6. When asked to describe Writers in Residence in their own words, the residents said:
  - a. "Creative."
  - b. "Fun, helping, encouraging, powerful."
  - c. "Another version of English class."
  - d. "This program is an amazing group and should come back some time soon."
  - e. "It's a learning environment."
  
7. 76% of residents agreed and strongly agreed that they would like to continue writing after their release with the program.

The Oberlin College cohort worked with 28 residents per week.<sup>1</sup> The average pre-WAT score was 104 and the average post-WAT score was 91. Before the creative writing workshop, the residents experienced low levels of writing apprehension, which indicated that they may have been unmotivated to work on their writing or consider recommendations for their writing whereas at the end of the creative writing workshop the residents experienced moderate levels of writing apprehension that isn't significantly unusual for writers. Since the surveys are voluntary, these results are inconclusive because not every resident will complete the surveys as well as the WAT. This survey data only approximates how much the residents' levels of writing apprehension changed from the first to the last creative writing workshop.

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<sup>1</sup> The Lorain County JDH experiences a high influx of male and female residents every week. We averaged the total numbers of male and female residents over the 11 weeks of service.



Pre-WAT		Resident 1	Resident 2	Resident 3	Resident 4	Resident 5	Resident 6
1	I avoid writing. (+)	5	5	5	1	5	5
2	I have no fear of my writing being evaluated. (-)	2	2	1	2	2	1
3	I look forward to writing down my ideas. (-)	1	2	1	3	1	1
4	I am afraid of writing essays when I know they will be evaluated. (+)	5	3	4	2	4	4
5	Taking a writing course is a very frightening experience. (+)	1	4	4	3	4	5
6	Handing in my writing makes me feel good. (-)	1	1	2	3	2	1
7	My mind seems to go blank when I start to work on my writing. (+)	5	5	3	3	5	5
8	Expressing ideas through writing seems to be a waste of time. (+)	5	5	5	2	5	5
9	I would enjoy submitting my writing to magazines for evaluation and publication. (-)	1	2	1	5	2	1
10	I like to write down my ideas. (-)	2	2	1	3	1	1
11	I feel confident in my ability to express my ideas clearly in writing. (-)	2	1	2	3	2	1
12	I like to have my friends read what I have written. (-)	2	3	3	2	3	3
13	I'm nervous about writing. (+)	5	4	4	1	4	4
14	People seem to enjoy what I write. (-)	1	2	3	3	2	2
15	I enjoy writing. (-)	2	2	1	3	4	1
16	I never seem to be able to write down my ideas clearly. (+)	5	4	3	1	2	4
17	Writing is a lot of fun. (-)	1	2	1	1	2	1
18	I expect to do poorly in writing classes even before I enter them. (+)	5	4	5	3	3	3
19	I like seeing my thoughts on paper. (-)	1	2	2	3	2	2
20	Discussing my writing with others is enjoyable. (-)	1	2	3	1	2	1
21	I have a terrible time organizing my ideas in a writing course. (+)	5	4	4	3	3	4
22	When I hand in my writing, I know I'm going to do poorly. (+)	5	4	4	2	3	5
23	It's easy for me to produce good writing. (-)	1	3	3	4	2	3
24	I don't think I write as well as most other people. (+)	5	4	4	5	3	5
25	I don't like my writing to be evaluated. (+)	5	3	5	3	4	5
26	I'm not good at writing. (+)	5	4	4	3	4	4
<b>PSVs</b>		61	53	54	32	49	58
<b>NSVs</b>		18	26	24	36	27	19
<b>WAT Score</b>		121	105	108	74	100	117
Pre-WAT		Resident 7	Resident 8	Resident 9	Resident 10	Resident 11	Resident 12
1	I avoid writing. (+)	3	5	1	5	1	5
2	I have no fear of my writing being evaluated. (-)	1	1	3	1	1	5
3	I look forward to writing down my ideas. (-)	2	1	3	1	2	1
4	I am afraid of writing essays when I know they will be evaluated. (+)	5	5	3	5	5	1
5	Taking a writing course is a very frightening experience. (+)	3	5	3	5	5	1
6	Handing in my writing makes me feel good. (-)	2	1	2	1	1	5
7	My mind seems to go blank when I start to work on my writing. (+)	1	1	3	5	5	5
8	Expressing ideas through writing seems to be a waste of time. (+)	4	5	3	5	5	5
9	I would enjoy submitting my writing to magazines for evaluation and publication. (-)	2	1	3	1	1	1
10	I like to write down my ideas. (-)	2	1	3	1	1	1
11	I feel confident in my ability to express my ideas clearly in writing. (-)	3	3	3	1	1	2
12	I like to have my friends read what I have written. (-)	2	3	3	1	1	1
13	I'm nervous about writing. (+)	3	1	3	5	5	5
14	People seem to enjoy what I write. (-)	3	4	3	1	3	1
15	I enjoy writing. (-)	2	3	3	1	1	1
16	I never seem to be able to write down my ideas clearly. (+)	4	3	3	5	5	1
17	Writing is a lot of fun. (-)	2	2	3	1	5	1
18	I expect to do poorly in writing classes even before I enter them. (+)	3	1	3	2	2	5
19	I like seeing my thoughts on paper. (-)	2	2	3	1	1	3
20	Discussing my writing with others is enjoyable. (-)	3	1	3	1	1	1
21	I have a terrible time organizing my ideas in a writing course. (+)	3	5	3	5	4	3
22	When I hand in my writing, I know I'm going to do poorly. (+)	4	1	3	1	4	5
23	It's easy for me to produce good writing. (-)	3	2	3	1	5	4
24	I don't think I write as well as most other people. (+)	2	1	3	5	1	3
25	I don't like my writing to be evaluated. (+)	5	4	3	5	4	3
26	I'm not good at writing. (+)	3	1	3	1	3	3
<b>PSVs</b>		61	53	54	32	49	58
<b>NSVs</b>		18	26	24	36	27	19
<b>WAT Score</b>		121	105	108	74	100	117



Post-WAT	Resident 1	Resident 2	Resident 3	Resident 4	Resident 5	Resident 6	Resident 7	Resident 8	Resident 9
1 I avoid writing. (+)	3	5	3	2	4	4	4	5	3
2 I have no fear of my writing being evaluated. (-)	1	3	2	2	3	2	2	2	2
3 I look forward to writing down my ideas. (-)	1	1	2	2	2	1	1	2	3
4 I am afraid of writing essays when I know they will be evaluated. (+)	1	5	3	1	3	3	3	2	3
5 Taking a writing course is a very frightening experience. (+)	4	5	2	1	5	4	4	4	3
6 Handing in my writing makes me feel good. (-)	3	1	2	2	2	2	2	3	3
7 My mind seems to go blank when I start to work on my writing. (+)	2	5	4	2	3	3	3	2	1
8 Expressing ideas through writing seems to be a waste of time. (+)	4	5	4	2	3	5	5	2	3
9 I would enjoy submitting my writing to magazines for evaluation and publication. (-)	3	1	2	1	1	2	1	2	3
10 I like to write down my ideas. (-)	2	1	2	2	3	4	3	2	3
11 I feel confident in my ability to express my ideas clearly in writing. (-)	2	1	2	2	1	3	1	3	3
12 I like to have my friends read what I have written. (-)	3	1	3	2	3	5	4	2	3
13 I'm nervous about writing. (+)	4	5	4	2	4	3	3	4	3
14 People seem to enjoy what I write. (-)	3	1	2	1	1	4	2	3	3
15 I enjoy writing. (-)	2	1	2	2	3	1	4	4	3
16 I never seem to be able to write down my ideas clearly. (+)	3	5	4	2	5	3	1	3	3
17 Writing is a lot of fun. (-)	2	2	3	1	1	1	3	1	3
18 I expect to do poorly in writing classes even before I enter them. (+)	4	5	4	1	3	4	4	1	3
19 I like seeing my thoughts on paper. (-)	2	2	2	2	1	3	5	1	3
20 Discussing my writing with others is enjoyable. (-)	3	1	2	2	2	5	2	2	3
21 I have a terrible time organizing my ideas in a writing course. (+)	4	5	4	2	2	4	2	2	3
22 When I hand in my writing, I know I'm going to do poorly. (+)	4	5	4	2	3	2	4	2	3
23 It's easy for me to produce good writing. (-)	3	2	2	2	3	4	1	3	3
24 I don't think I write as well as most other people. (+)	3	5	3	2	3	5	4	3	3
25 I don't like my writing to be evaluated. (+)	4	5	4	2	3	2	3	2	3
26 I'm not good at writing. (+)	3	5	4	2	3	3	2	3	3
<b>PSVs</b>	43	65	47	23	44	45	42	35	37
<b>NSVs</b>	30	18	28	23	26	37	31	30	38
<b>WAT Score</b>	91	125	97	78	96	86	89	83	77

  

Post-WAT	Resident 10	Resident 11	Resident 12	Resident 13	Resident 14	Resident 15	Resident 16	Resident 17
1 I avoid writing. (+)	2	3	5	3	3	5	5	1
2 I have no fear of my writing being evaluated. (-)	1	2	1	2	3	3	1	4
3 I look forward to writing down my ideas. (-)	2	3	1	2	2	4	1	1
4 I am afraid of writing essays when I know they will be evaluated. (+)	2	4	5	3	3	1	5	2
5 Taking a writing course is a very frightening experience. (+)	2	4	5	3	3	2	5	1
6 Handing in my writing makes me feel good. (-)	2	3	1	5	3	4	3	1
7 My mind seems to go blank when I start to work on my writing. (+)	2	2	5	3	3	3	3	2
8 Expressing ideas through writing seems to be a waste of time. (+)	2	3	5	4	2	3	5	2
9 I would enjoy submitting my writing to magazines for evaluation and publication. (-)	2	3	1	2	2	3	2	3
10 I like to write down my ideas. (-)	2	3	1	2	2	2	1	1
11 I feel confident in my ability to express my ideas clearly in writing. (-)	2	2	1	3	2	1	1	2
12 I like to have my friends read what I have written. (-)	2	3	1	4	2	1	1	1
13 I'm nervous about writing. (+)	2	3	3	5	2	5	5	2
14 People seem to enjoy what I write. (-)	2	3	2	5	3	4	2	1
15 I enjoy writing. (-)	2	2	1	3	2	3	1	1
16 I never seem to be able to write down my ideas clearly. (+)	2	3	5	2	3	2	5	1
17 Writing is a lot of fun. (-)	2	2	1	4	2	3	1	1
18 I expect to do poorly in writing classes even before I enter them. (+)	1	3	5	2	3	3	5	2
19 I like seeing my thoughts on paper. (-)	1	2	1	2	2	4	1	2
20 Discussing my writing with others is enjoyable. (-)	2	2	1	5	3	3	3	2
21 I have a terrible time organizing my ideas in a writing course. (+)	1	3	5	2	2	2	5	3
22 When I hand in my writing, I know I'm going to do poorly. (+)	1	3	5	3	2	1	5	3
23 It's easy for me to produce good writing. (-)	1	3	1	3	3	2	1	2
24 I don't think I write as well as most other people. (+)	2	2	5	1	2	2	5	2
25 I don't like my writing to be evaluated. (+)	2	3	5	2	3	2	5	2
26 I'm not good at writing. (+)	1	3	5	3	2	2	5	2
<b>PSVs</b>	22	39	63	36	33	33	63	25
<b>NSVs</b>	23	33	14	42	31	37	19	22
<b>WAT Score</b>	77	84	127	72	80	74	122	81



## Survey Summary from the Indian River JCF

At the end of the first and last creative writing workshop, we ask the residents to complete a brief survey that provides us with feedback about their experience. A summarized comparison of those survey results are below.

1. 100% of residents agreed and strongly agreed that they liked the pilot creative writing workshop.
2. 100% of residents agreed and strongly agreed that they liked the creative writing workshop. When asked to explain why, they said:
  - a. "I love sharing my ideas with others."
  - b. "I like to meet new people and I need to practice my writing and spelling."
  - c. "It was a fun learning experience."
3. 100% of residents agreed and strongly agreed that creative writing has impacted them. When asked to explain why, they said:
  - a. "I learned a lot."
  - b. "It impacted me [well] cause I got to learn something new."
  - c. "It showed me different ways to write."
  - d. "It helps me think more and taught me a lot."
4. When asked to explain what they learned from the creative writing workshop, the residents said:
  - a. "Poetry and how to word myself."
  - b. "How to write down poems."
  - c. "How to write poems."
  - d. "I learned new things that I didn't [know] like how to write songs, poems, and more things that I like to do."
5. When asked to describe their favorite part of the creative writing workshop, the residents said:
  - a. "The laughs."
  - b. "Writing down haikus."
  - c. "Eating pie."
  - d. "Learning and meeting [new people]."
6. When asked to describe Writers in Residence in their own words, the residents said:
  - a. "Helpful and enjoyable."
  - b. "The program toh up."
  - c. "Very [much] learning."
  - d. "A learning, confident, nice, and outstanding program."
7. 95% of residents agreed and strongly agreed that they would like to continue writing after their release with the program.





Post-WAT	Resident 1	Resident 2	Resident 3	Resident 4
1 I avoid writing. (+)	5	3	3	4
2 I have no fear of my writing being evaluated. (-)	2	3	3	2
3 I look forward to writing down my ideas. (-)	1	2	2	2
4 I am afraid of writing essays when I know they will be evaluated. (+)	3	3	3	3
5 Taking a writing course is a very frightening experience. (+)	5	3	3	5
6 Handing in my writing makes me feel good. (-)	2	3	3	2
7 My mind seems to go blank when I start to work on my writing. (+)	4	3	4	4
8 Expressing ideas through writing seems to be a waste of time. (+)	5	4	5	5
9 I would enjoy submitting my writing to magazines for evaluation and publication. (-)	1	3	3	1
10 I like to write down my ideas. (-)	1	2	3	1
11 I feel confident in my ability to express my ideas clearly in writing. (-)	1	4	2	1
12 I like to have my friends read what I have written. (-)	1	3	3	3
13 I'm nervous about writing. (+)	5	3	4	2
14 People seem to enjoy what I write. (-)	1	3	3	2
15 I enjoy writing. (-)	1	2	1	1
16 I never seem to be able to write down my ideas clearly. (+)	5	3	3	4
17 Writing is a lot of fun. (-)	1	3	2	1
18 I expect to do poorly in writing classes even before I enter them. (+)	5	4	5	4
19 I like seeing my thoughts on paper. (-)	1	3	2	2
20 Discussing my writing with others is enjoyable. (-)	1	3	2	2
21 I have a terrible time organizing my ideas in a writing course. (+)	4	3	4	4
22 When I hand in my writing, I know I'm going to do poorly. (+)	5	3	3	5
23 It's easy for me to produce good writing. (-)	1	3	2	2
24 I don't think I write as well as most other people. (+)	5	2	3	4
25 I don't like my writing to be evaluated. (+)	5	3	3	4
26 I'm not good at writing. (+)	5	3	5	5
<b>PSVs</b>	61	40	48	53
<b>NSVs</b>	15	37	31	22
<b>WAT Score</b>	124	81	95	109

The College of Wooster cohort worked with 6 residents. The average post-WAT score was 102 and this indicated that the residents experienced low levels of writing apprehension at the end of the creative writing workshop. Similar to the levels of writing apprehension from the residents that worked with the JCU cohort, the levels of writing apprehension from the residents that worked with the College of Wooster cohort may also become unmotivated to work on their writing or consider recommendations for their writing if we don't engage, critique, and validate their creative writing. Since the surveys are voluntary, this presents inconclusive pre- and post-results because not every resident will complete the surveys as well as the WAT. This survey data only approximates how much the residents' levels of writing apprehension changed from the first to the last creative writing workshop.



## Survey Summary from the Portage-Geauga JDC

At the end of the first and last creative writing workshop, we ask the residents to complete a brief survey that provides us with feedback about their experience. A summarized comparison of those survey results are below.

1. 90% of residents agreed and strongly agreed that they liked the pilot creative writing workshop.
2. 86% of residents agreed and strongly agreed that they liked the creative writing workshop. When asked to explain why, they said:
  - a. "It helps me express myself fully in writing."
  - b. "Because the people were great."
  - c. "I liked learning about other people."
  - d. "I agree because they all are fun people."
  - e. "It was cool to do something different."
3. 71% of residents agreed and strongly agreed that creative writing has impacted them. When asked to explain why, they said:
  - a. "I put my feelings on paper."
  - b. "I got to hear everyone's opinions on things."
  - c. "I have developed relationships with [these] people."
4. When asked to explain what they learned from the creative writing workshop, the residents said:
  - a. "How to express myself [with] words."
  - b. "Write what you think."
  - c. "I learned how to make 6-word memoirs and poems and I didn't know how to."
  - d. "How to write 6-word memoirs."
  - e. "How to be nonjudgmental."
5. When asked to describe Writers in Residence in their own words, the residents said:
  - a. "A helping class of people."
  - b. "A group of wonderful people who go around to help troubled people so they have positive role models."
6. 57% of residents agreed and strongly agreed that they would like to continue writing after their release with the program.

The Hiram College Cohort worked with 21 residents. The average pre-WAT score was 79 and the average post-WAT score was 86.5. The difference between the average pre-WAT and the post-WAT scores indicated that the residents experienced lower levels of writing apprehension at the end of the creative writing workshop, which implies that the residents' experience in our creative writing workshops mitigated their fears toward creative writing and instead enhanced their confidence toward creative writing. Since the surveys are voluntary, this presents inconclusive pre- and post- results because not every resident will complete the surveys as well as the WAT. This survey data only approximates how much the residents' levels of writing apprehension changed from the first to the last creative writing workshop.



Pre-WAT		Resident 1	Resident 2	Resident 3
1	I avoid writing. (+)	4	3	3
2	I have no fear of my writing being evaluated. (-)	4	2	3
3	I look forward to writing down my ideas. (-)	3	1	3
4	I am afraid of writing essays when I know they will be evaluated. (+)	4	2	3
5	Taking a writing course is a very frightening experience. (+)	4	2	3
6	Handing in my writing makes me feel good. (-)	4	2	4
7	My mind seems to go blank when I start to work on my writing. (+)	4	2	3
8	Expressing ideas through writing seems to be a waste of time. (+)	4	2	3
9	I would enjoy submitting my writing to magazines for evaluation and publication. (-)	4	2	3
10	I like to write down my ideas. (-)	4	2	3
11	I feel confident in my ability to express my ideas clearly in writing. (-)	4	2	3
12	I like to have my friends read what I have written. (-)	5	3	4
13	I'm nervous about writing. (+)	4	3	3
14	People seem to enjoy what I write. (-)	4	3	4
15	I enjoy writing. (-)	4	2	3
16	I never seem to be able to write down my ideas clearly. (+)	4	3	3
17	Writing is a lot of fun. (-)	2	3	3
18	I expect to do poorly in writing classes even before I enter them. (+)	4	3	3
19	I like seeing my thoughts on paper. (-)	4	3	3
20	Discussing my writing with others is enjoyable. (-)	4	2	3
21	I have a terrible time organizing my ideas in a writing course. (+)	4	2	3
22	When I hand in my writing, I know I'm going to do poorly. (+)	4	3	4
23	It's easy for me to produce good writing. (-)	4	2	4
24	I don't think I write as well as most other people. (+)	4	2	4
25	I don't like my writing to be evaluated. (+)	4	2	4
26	I'm not good at writing. (+)	4	2	4
PSVs		52	31	43
NSVs		50	29	43
WAT Score		80	80	78

Post-WAT		Resident 1	Resident 2	Resident 3	Resident 4	Resident 5	Resident 6
1	I avoid writing. (+)	5	5	3	3	4	3
2	I have no fear of my writing being evaluated. (-)	5	4	1	2	0	4
3	I look forward to writing down my ideas. (-)	5	1	3	2	3	2
4	I am afraid of writing essays when I know they will be evaluated. (+)	5	4	4	3	0	1
5	Taking a writing course is a very frightening experience. (+)	5	1	3	3	4	3
6	Handing in my writing makes me feel good. (-)	1	1	3	1	2	1
7	My mind seems to go blank when I start to work on my writing. (+)	5	1	4	3	3	2
8	Expressing ideas through writing seems to be a waste of time. (+)	5	1	4	2	4	4
9	I would enjoy submitting my writing to magazines for evaluation and publication. (-)	1	1	2	3	2	5
10	I like to write down my ideas. (-)	1	1	3	2	2	2
11	I feel confident in my ability to express my ideas clearly in writing. (-)	1	1	2	3	2	5
12	I like to have my friends read what I have written. (-)	5	1	3	1	3	2
13	I'm nervous about writing. (+)	5	1	3	3	3	2
14	People seem to enjoy what I write. (-)	1	1	2	2	3	5
15	I enjoy writing. (-)	5	1	3	3	2	2
16	I never seem to be able to write down my ideas clearly. (+)	5	1	3	3	4	1
17	Writing is a lot of fun. (-)	5	1	2	2	3	1
18	I expect to do poorly in writing classes even before I enter them. (+)	5	1	2	2	5	1
19	I like seeing my thoughts on paper. (-)	1	1	2	3	3	1
20	Discussing my writing with others is enjoyable. (-)	5	1	2	3	2	5
21	I have a terrible time organizing my ideas in a writing course. (+)	5	5	2	1	3	2
22	When I hand in my writing, I know I'm going to do poorly. (+)	5	5	3	1	4	2
23	It's easy for me to produce good writing. (-)	1	1	3	2	3	5
24	I don't think I write as well as most other people. (+)	5	1	2	3	4	1
25	I don't like my writing to be evaluated. (+)	5	1	3	3	4	1
26	I'm not good at writing. (+)	5	1	2	3	4	1
PSVs		65	28	38	33	46	24
NSVs		37	16	31	29	30	40
WAT Score		106	90	85	82	94	62



## **Survey Summary from the Student Volunteers**

At the end of the volunteer experience, we ask the student volunteers to complete a brief survey that provides us with feedback about their experience. A summarized comparison of those survey results are below.

1. 100% of the student volunteers agreed and strongly agreed that they liked their volunteer experience. When asked to explain why, they said:
  - a. "Zach is the best. He is so caring and thoughtful and works so hard to make sure that the residents and the volunteers have a fantastic experience. I have learned so so much."
  - b. "I loved getting to know the guys! I really feel it was important to get to know them without knowing why they are there. I got to see them as the young men that they are instead of the stigma that incarceration gives them."
  - c. "I had an amazing time volunteering. I was so nervous, but I ended up having so much fun. It was really so cool to be able to see some of the residents open up with their writing and be able to laugh and joke. I also had never really done creative writing before. This workshop even made me incorporate that into my life as something that's fun and relaxing, and I've started doing it outside of Writers in Residence which for me was really cool."
  - d. "Getting to work with this population felt really valuable to me. I learned a lot from the residents, I enjoyed joking around and talking about stuff. I loved hearing what they wrote. And hearing from staff how residents liked our program and how they've started writing outside class made me literally so so happy."
  - e. "I was so happy to get to know a population that is constantly stereotyped for their actions, and see just how human and compassionate each of them are."
  - f. "I learned so much about writing and about myself while volunteering at the Juvenile Detention center. Whenever I do service opportunities like these I'm always reminded without fail about how blessed I am to have what I have and to never have had to go through the traumatic experiences these people have gone through. And yet they get through it and they endure! And they are wonderful. I loved working with the residents. I love talking with them and hearing their stories about their hometowns, what movies they like, what other talents they have besides writing. These guys surprised me every week with their work. I'm so happy to be a part of WIR this year!"
  
2. 100% of the student volunteers agreed and strongly agreed that the creative writing workshop impacted them. When asked to explain why, they said:
  - a. "I feel that I have gained such a valuable view on residence and crime in general. I've learned so much from the residence about being resilient and compassionate. It's really hard to put into words how much this experience has impacted me."
  - b. "It added a lot of perspective to my view of the juvenile justice system."
  - c. "I think about these kids all the time. And doing this work honestly made me want to do more of it. It's hard sometimes, but there are moments that make it so worth it."
  - d. "I feel as though I have grown in my own writing abilities as well as grown as a human being in terms of empathy."



- e. "I love hearing the guys stories and seeing how talented they are. The best thing I heard almost every session from one or more of the guys was how much they looked forward to our sessions every week. We are really making a huge difference in their lives."
3. When asked to explain what they learned about the residents and the juvenile justice system through this volunteer experience, the student volunteers said:
- a. "I learned that they are people too and that the system needs major reform (which I already knew but now know specific facts)."
  - b. "YES! I learned that it's so much more than what you read about or hear about in class articles, news reports, and podcasts. It's really easy to learn about the justice system, but being around these residence really humanizes everything you've learned."
  - c. "I learned that the residents are quite funny and personable. I learned that you the system is messed up. Some of the things the teachers did or didn't do caused me to raise some eyebrows, along with some comments the kids made, and that's just inside the JDC."
  - d. "Sometimes the residents seemed so young (because they are) and sometimes they seemed so old. Even if you know someone affected by the juvenile justice system, you won't get a picture of the whole population because everyone is different and has a different story. Our cohort also was surprised by how many of the residents in our group noted that they like school. A lot of our residents really seemed to want to learn, participate and converse. From day 1 they were more engaged than I expected. I still have a lot of questions about how the system works and what the residents lives are like on the "inside." I guess I learned that the system is complicated."
  - e. "They're all just kids."
  - f. "The justice system is not always just. these youth need more rehabilitative services (like counseling) to help them lead more functional lifestyles and re-assimilate to the outside culture when they are released."
  - g. "The residents really need to make sure they get the resources they need (whether pharmaceutical drugs, therapy, etc.) to make sure they become better rather than worse while incarcerated, so when they get out they are not broken but have just learned their lesson and can walk in society again confidently. I've also learned by watching "The 13th" on Netflix, which was a resource given to us by Zach, that the prison system in general is a huge money maker and there are so many businesses associated with it, and we should NOT be treating humans like monetary goods. Above all, I learned more that every person has a voice and everyone deserves to use it."
  - h. "How insightful and reflective they are, how thy long for human connection, how corrupt the prison system is."
  - i. "I learned that the juvenile justice system is incredibly illusive and confusing. From the boys perspectives, they are often confused about what their judges, social workers, or parents need from them; what should they include in their letters, when will they get out, how long will they be here? They also complain about the conditions of their environment, saying that it is unreasonably cold and the guards often curse at them and treat them harshly. Overall, the juvenile justice system needs to be majorly reformed and evaluated to better meet the



needs of these boys, and offer services that will actually help them succeed in real-world environments.”

4. When asked to share one story or experience that they will always carry with them, the student volunteers said:
- a. “The laughs that I shared with the residents. That isn't specific but really it is the overall experience and moments I will not forget.”
  - b. “One of the residence on the last day tells me about how much he didn't want to get close with anyone in this program because he knew it was a short lived friendship, but that he is glad he got close with me because it reminded him what the outside is like. Earlier, He was talking about how nervous he was to get out, so this conversation was really important to me. He didn't say that as emotionally as I have written, but I think that will stick with me forever and I'm hopeful he will be successful once he is out.”
  - c. “I will always remember meeting Lucas and learning about how he was misgendered. It will make me continue to consider what life as a trans inmate is and what resources are or are not available.”
  - d. “When the residents were so into rapping their songs to the music that we started over like 4 times and they were fine with putting off the snacks because they wanted to keep doing the exercise. And when they started doing backup to each other's songs. Oh and that day a few residents said they were going to keep writing after class.”
  - e. “Hearing about the students writing more and more when we weren't even there.”
  - f. “A resident opened up to me about the past trauma he has suffered from which exasperate his pre-existing mental illnesses. I asked what resources they had on the inside to heal and he responded with nothing. Our stories were very different yet in childhood we lived in the same city. It was appalling to me that we ended up in such different spaces and still got along so seamlessly. I wish there were more I or anyone could do for him, but there are so many institutional issues that need to be addressed. He has great aspirations and I fully believe he will achieve them.”
  - g. “During the screenplay workshop one of our residents wrote a script about when he and his sister met for the first time when they were older. He and another resident acted it out, and the story is so beautiful. I will definitely remember that for a long, long time.”
  - h. “Being vulnerable and real with the guys when one of them tried to commit suicide, that is a special bond that I will carry with me.”
  - i. “There are many things that individual boys have told me (often stories of how they got there, or what they want to do when they get out) that I will remember. The one experience I always have when working at the center happens at the very end of the session, when I get up to leave with the other volunteers. We wave goodbye to the boys, and I love hearing several of them shout, "BYE OLIVER!" And when we return, the same few shout, "HI OLIVER!" Every time they greet or say goodbye to me, I feel warm and happy that they enjoy interacting with me and look forward to our hour together on Monday evenings. I like walking in, seeing that they wave to me and ask me to read over their letters, or what is going on with me, or want to tell me something exciting, like they are getting let out soon. I know this is a specific story or experience, but anytime I am tired and have a lot of work and am not eager to volunteer at the center that



week, their greeting always reminds me why we are here, why it matters, and how excited I am to spend my hour with them.”