

CA/T Info Session

Sept. 9, 2026



Agenda

- ❑ **What is CA/T?**
- ❑ **CA/T Opportunities**
- ❑ **CA/T Sites**
- ❑ **Pedagogy**
- ❑ **CTL + CA/T**
- ❑ **CA/T Leadership**
- ❑ **Next Steps**

What is CA/T?

- **CA/T IS COLUMBIA ARTIST/TEACHERS**
- **FOUNDED IN 2002 BY 4 STUDENTS AND PROF. ALAN ZIEGLER**
- **PROVIDES TEACHING OPPORTUNITIES AND PEDAGOGICAL TRAINING TO COLUMBIA MFA CANDIDATES IN THE WRITING PROGRAM**
- **OFFERS COMMUNITY ENRICHMENT THROUGH ART PROGRAMMING THROUGHOUT NYC (AND BEYOND!)**
- **SERVES AS A SUPPORTIVE COMMUNITY OF STUDENTS AND FACULTY WITHIN THE WRITING PROGRAM**

CAT Opportunities

Teaching Sites

- ADULT + YOUTH SITES
- 1-ON-1
MENTORSHIP/WRITING
COACHING
- CLASSROOM TEACHING
- WORKSHOP
FACILITATION
- CURRICULUM
DEVELOPMENT

Pedagogy

- TEACHING BEYOND THE
GATES
- WRITER AS TEACHER
- SPECIAL EVENTS AND
ONE-OFF PROGRAMMING

Community

- PICNICS AND PIZZA
PARTIES!
- HOLIDAY PARTY
- PUBLICATION LAUNCH
PARTIES
- OFFICE HOURS
- READINGS AND SPECIAL
EVENTS
- URIS HALL LOUNGE

Teaching Sites

Youth Sites

- Harriet Tubman Learning Center
- Blanquita B. Valenti School
- Double Discovery Center
- Frank Sinatra School of the Arts
- The School at Columbia
- Girls Write Now
- Lenfest Kids



Harriet Tubman Learning Center / America Reads

Site Coordinator: Selena Perez | sp4623@columbia.edu

- Frequency: Every other week
- Meeting Days: Days TBD, time either after school or during lunch
- # of Teachers: 2
- About: This creative writing club works with 3-5th graders at a West Harlem in partnership with America Reads.

Double Discovery Center

Site Coordinator: Selena Perez | sp4623@columbia.edu

- Frequency: Weekly at Columbia's Double Discovery Center
- Meeting Days: Saturdays
- # of Teachers: 2
- About: This is a nonfiction writing class for middle school or high school students (TBD).

Girls Write Now Mentorship

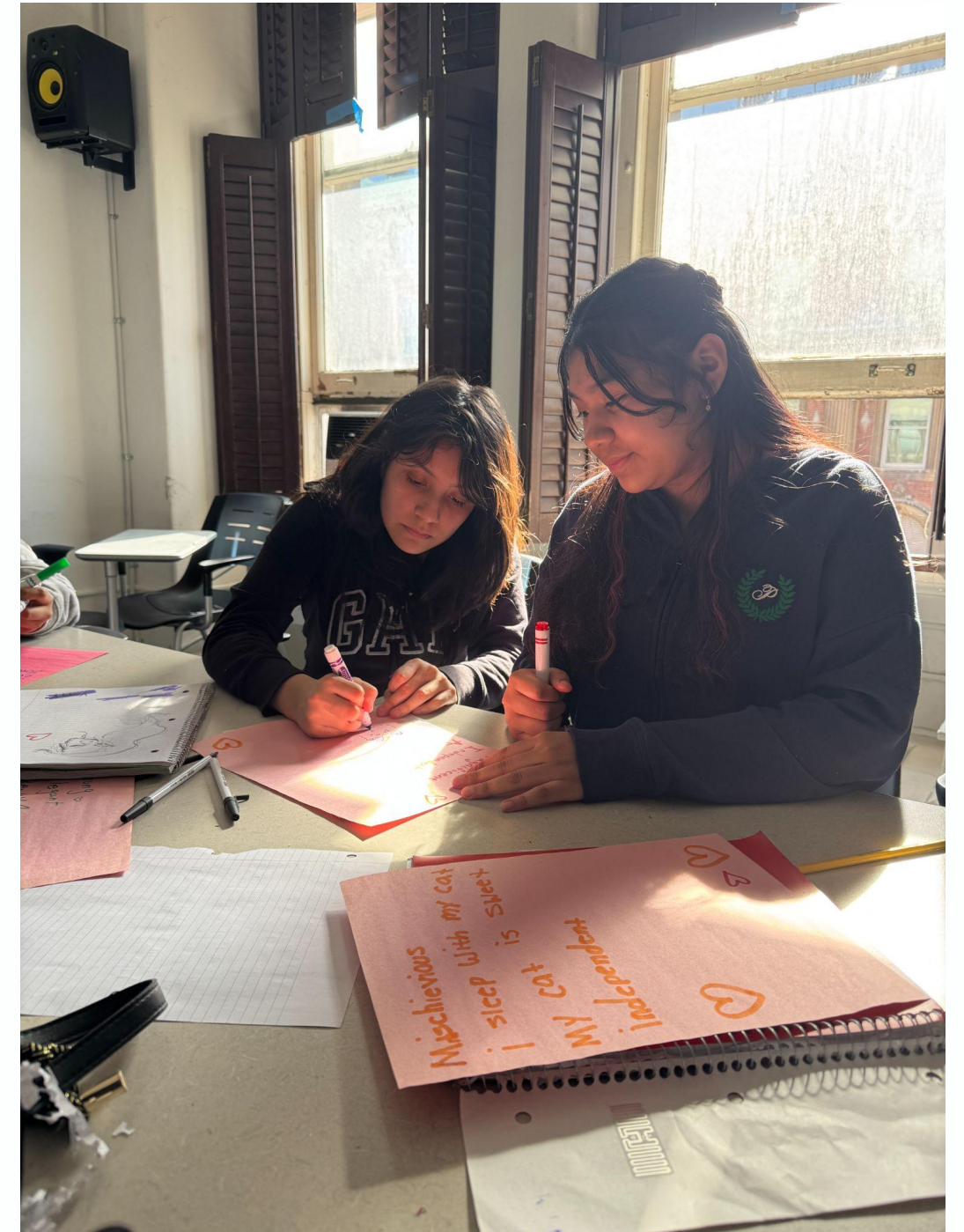
Site Coordinator: Selena Perez | sp4623@columbia.edu

- Frequency: ~Once a week, plus support emails as they arrive
- Meeting Days: Flexible
- # of Teachers: ~10+ (Capacity determined by Girls Write Now)
- About: Girls Write Now is a national organization supporting young writers ages 10–24 who identify as girls, non-binary, or gender-non conforming. They connect young writers with mentors who share the gender identity above and who are 25+. Your mentee will be enrolled in a writing course (called a “Journey”) through Girls Write Now, and you will partner with her/them in supporting their work in the class.
- Girls Write Now runs a separate application process, with applications due 9/15/26.
More information here: <https://girlswritenow.org/mentorship/>

Blanquita B. Valenti School

Site Coordinator: Joyce Gao | jg4853@columbia.edu

- Frequency: Every other week over Zoom
- Meeting Days: TBD
- # of Teachers: 3-5
- About:
 - Online creative writing classes with lots of flexibility in lesson plans
 - The students had a field trip to Columbia this past spring where we did a campus tour and creative writing activities



Frank Sinatra School of the Arts

Site Coordinator: Joyce Gao | jg4853@columbia.edu

- Frequency: Once a week
- Meeting Days:
 - Creative Writing Club: Tuesday/Wednesday afternoon
 - English Class: Friday mornings
- # of Teachers:
 - Creative Writing Club: up to 4
 - English Class: 4-6
- About:
 - High School in Astoria
 - Two options: Creative Writing Club (lots of freedom in lesson plans!) or English Class

Lenfest Kids

Site Coordinator: Joyce Gao | jg4853@columbia.edu

- Frequency: Monthly
- Meeting Days: Saturdays
- # of Teachers: 5
- About:
 - Teachers will lead writing and art activities following the screening of a movie
 - Usually geared toward younger children but once a semester there is a teen event
 - Meetings with me and other teachers to plan activities



Lenfest Drop-In Table

Site Coordinator: Joyce Gao | jg4853@columbia.edu

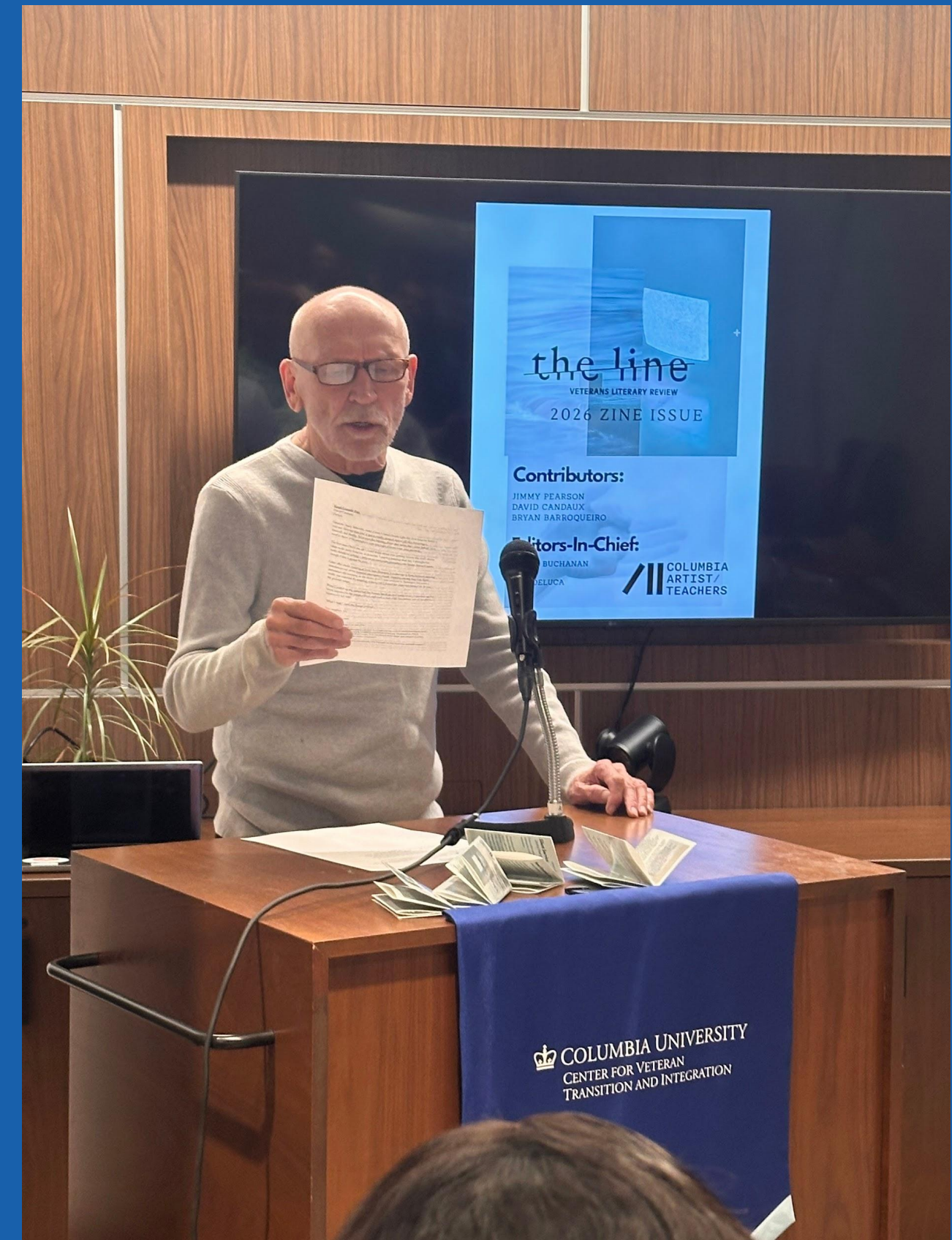
- Frequency: Around 4 times a semester
- Meeting Days: historically Wednesdays 1-2pm
- # of Teachers: 2
- About:
 - Themed creative writing activities with snacks!
 - Previous themes have been Valentine's Day, Travel, Animals, Food



Teaching Sites

Adult Sites

- The Bridge
- Goddard Riverside
- Red Door Community
- Columbia Veterans Workshop
- Columbia Recovery Coalition
- Writing at the Wallach Gallery
- Columbia Undergraduate Creative Writing 1:1
- Creative Writing for English Learners



The Bridge

Site Coordinator: Rose duCharme | krd2147@columbia.edu

- Frequency: Two 45-minute classes taught once a week:
Poetry Workshop & Writing to Wellness
- Meeting Days: TBD, but morning and midday work best
- # of Teachers: 4 (two per class)
- About: Community based programs for vulnerable adults in NYC. CA/T's role is to provide in-person writing courses to outpatients through the Personal Recovery Oriented Service program and promote creative writing as a form of self-expression.



Goddard Riverside

Site Coordinator: Rose duCharme | krd2147@columbia.edu

- Frequency: Once a week
- Meeting Days: Thursday, in person
- # of Teachers: 2 - 3 per site (potentially two sites)
 - Senate Site + Capitol Hill Site
- About: Provide weekly reading and writing exercise to Goddard Riverside's supportive housing community. Goddard Riverside creates resources to promote a fair and just society, serving 22,000 New Yorkers ranging from Early Childhood Education to Older Adult Centers.



Red Door Community

Site Coordinator: Rose duCharme | krd2147@columbia.edu

- Frequency: Twice a month
- Meeting Days: Fridays, likely virtual, exact time TBD
- # of Teachers: 2
- About: RDC provides free community support for individuals and families impacted by cancer. CA/T's role is to create an open, encouraging creative space; what this looks like is up to you.



Columbia Veterans Workshop

Site Coordinator: Julia Holmes | jeh2272@columbia.edu

- Both in-person (Kent 205, CVTI Room) and virtual (Zoom).
- Frequency: Once a week.
- Meeting Days: TBD, previously held Thursday evenings.
- # of Teachers: Three for in-person, two for virtual.
- About:
 - This site works with veterans in the extended Columbia University community. It's a great fit for those looking to gain experience leading a beginner workshop or are passionate about serving writers transitioning into civilian life.

Writing at the Wallach

Site Coordinator: Julia Holmes | jeh2272@columbia.edu



- Frequency: Once a month.
- Meeting Days: Various dates and times, coinciding with the opening of new exhibits.
- # of Teachers: Three.
- About:
 - This site leads craft sessions and writing workshops at Columbia's Wallach Gallery located in Lenfest, based on the exhibits currently shown! If you're a frequent museum visitor or love the intersection of visual and literary arts, this would be the perfect place to teach!

UCW 1:1

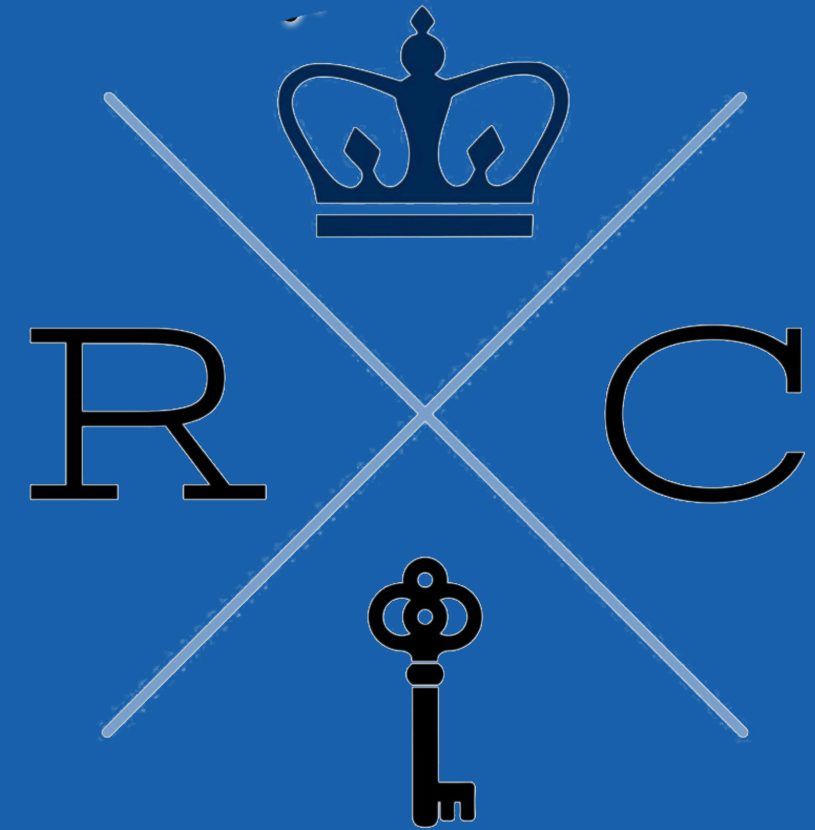
Site Coordinator: Julia Holmes | jeh2272@columbia.edu

- Frequency: once a week.
- Meeting Days: TBD!
- # of Teachers: Flexible
- About:
 - These are in-person individual sessions with undergraduates studying in Columbia's Creative Writing Department. These students may want feedback, have questions, or just want to brainstorm and chat!

Columbia Recovery Coalition

Site Coordinator: Jessica Hoppe | kjh2188@columbia.edu

- Frequency: 1x week
- Meeting Days: Thursdays @ 6:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.
- # of Teachers: 2-3
- About: Recovery Coalition is a student-run peer support group at Columbia University for individuals navigating recovery from substance use, trauma, eating disorders, and other mental health challenges. CA/T will be providing support through weekly writing workshops. Teachers will prepare culturally relevant lessons plans for people in recovery including readings, discussion questions, writing prompts and time to share work.



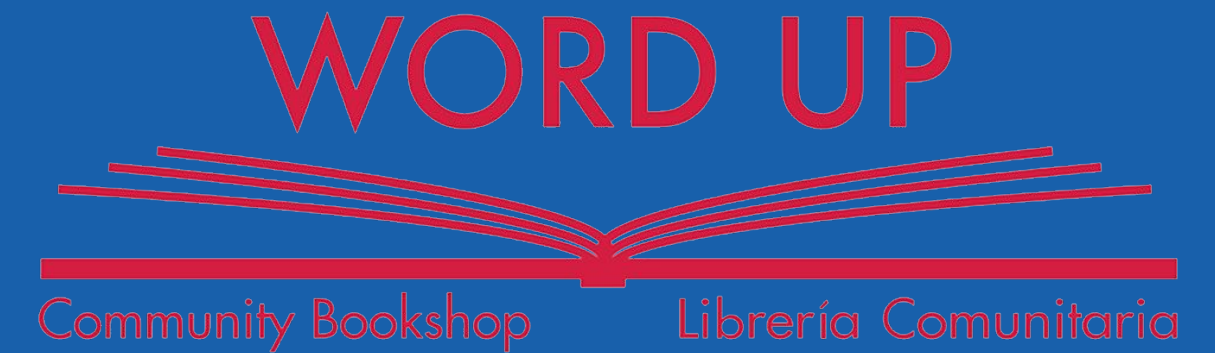
Creative Writing for English Learners @Recirculation/Word Up

Site Coordinators: Mara Cavallaro |

mmc2343@columbia.edu and Selena Perez |

sp4623@columbia.edu

- Frequency: Once a week
- Meeting Days: TBD→ weekdays after 6PM
- # of Teachers: 3-4
- About: This is a brand new partnership with a community bookstore in Washington Heights. Classes will meet weekly **in-person for two hours** and be grounded in creative writing pedagogy (close reading, writing prompts, etc) to support bilingual students for whom English is a second language.



Teaching Sites One-Offs

Sites Coordinator: Bella Butler | imb2144@columbia.edu

- For teachers who can't commit regularly but are interested in one-off teaching opportunities as they come up
- Exs.
 - Gatehouse Community Garden Events
 - The Unstuck Series

**THE UNSTUCK SERIES:
HACKING CREATIVE FLOW**

Feeling the pressure of the deadline, the block, or the blank page? This 5-week workshop series is designed by MFA Creative Writing students to explore creative flow and process. Find inspiration and your creative output.

DATE	TEACHER	TOPIC
11/10	JONATHAN FARREL	Finding Creative Habit: Looking at How Different Authors Prepare to Work
11/17	COLLEEN MARKLEY	Peaceful Productivity: Weaving the Superpowers of Meditation and Humor
11/24	HEEBA HASAN	Interdisciplinary Play - Tapping into art and music to find your voice
12/1	PASCALE KAHN	Unlocking the unconscious: Surrealist Techniques for the Creative Act
12/8	CHLOË DRIMAL	Breathwork to Clear the Cobwebs and Find Flow

Mondays
1-2 pm @ Dodge 413

**COLUMBIA
ARTIST/
TEACHERS**



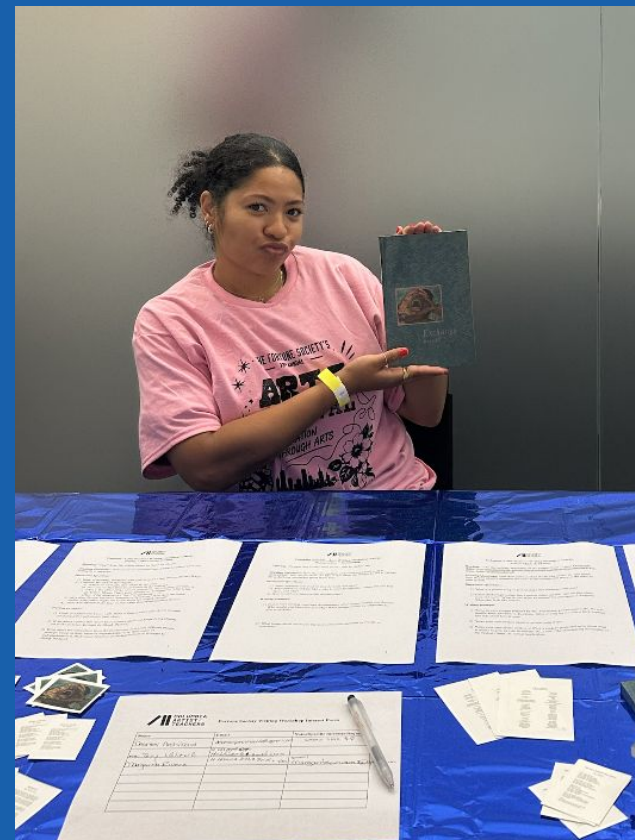
Incarcerated Writers Initiative

IWI encompasses CA/T's programming for currently and formerly incarcerated writers. This includes workshops, one-to-one mentorship and coaching, writing workshops, and other opportunities.

IWI also publishes *Exchange*, a literary magazine of work from currently and formerly incarcerated writers from around the country.

IWI Sites

- Fortune Society Class
- Fortune Society 1:1
- Columbia IWI Workshop
- *Exchange*
- Minutes Before Six*
- Rikers Workshop*
- Rikers TAship*



IWI Placement Breakdown

Site	Location	Time Commitment
Minutes Before Six*	Remote	4 in depth feedback letters/year
Columbia IWI Workshop	On Campus	Weekly 2 hour workshop + class prep
Fortune Society Seminar	In person, Long Island City, Queens OR Bronx	Weekly 2 hour workshop + class prep + travel
Fortune Society 1:1s	In person, Long Island City	Weekly 2 hour 1:1s + travel
Rikers Workshop*	In person, Rikers Island	Weekly 2 hour workshop + class prep + travel
Rikers TAsip*	In person, Rikers Island	2 two hour classes/week + travel
Exchange	On Campus	Weekly 2 hour meetings

IWI: Fortune Society

Site Coordinator: Mara Cavallaro | mmc2343@columbia.edu



- Frequency: Once a week
- Meeting Days: Thursday 2:30-4:30 in Long Island City OR Wednesdays (time TBD) in the Bronx
- # of Teachers: 6-8
- About: This is a weekly **two-hour in-person** writing seminar. Co-teachers will work closely with students and develop a writing curriculum based on their interests. The Fortune Society is a nonprofit that serves formerly incarcerated community members.



Columbia Artist/Teachers Writing Workshop 4/2/26: Writing as Freedom Dreaming

Reading: “How to Freedom Dream,” Tourmaline, *Vogue*, 2020
(<https://www.vogue.com/article/filmmaker-and-activist-tourmaline-on-how-to-free-dom-dream>)

Guiding Questions: What is freedom dreaming? How can we practice solidarity and care through writing? What is the role of imagination in nonfiction writing?

Discussion Questions:

- 1) What is the structure of this essay? What is the purpose of each section in it?
- 2) Consider the craft of the essay.
 - a) How does Tourmaline use repetition? To what effect?
 - b) What is the effect of the second person (“I want **you** to know”)?
 - c) Tourmaline makes references to both historical and current events in the piece. To what effect?
- 3) What, if anything, resonated with you? Is there a line that stands out? Why?
- 4) How can writing be a type of freedom dreaming?

Writing prompts:

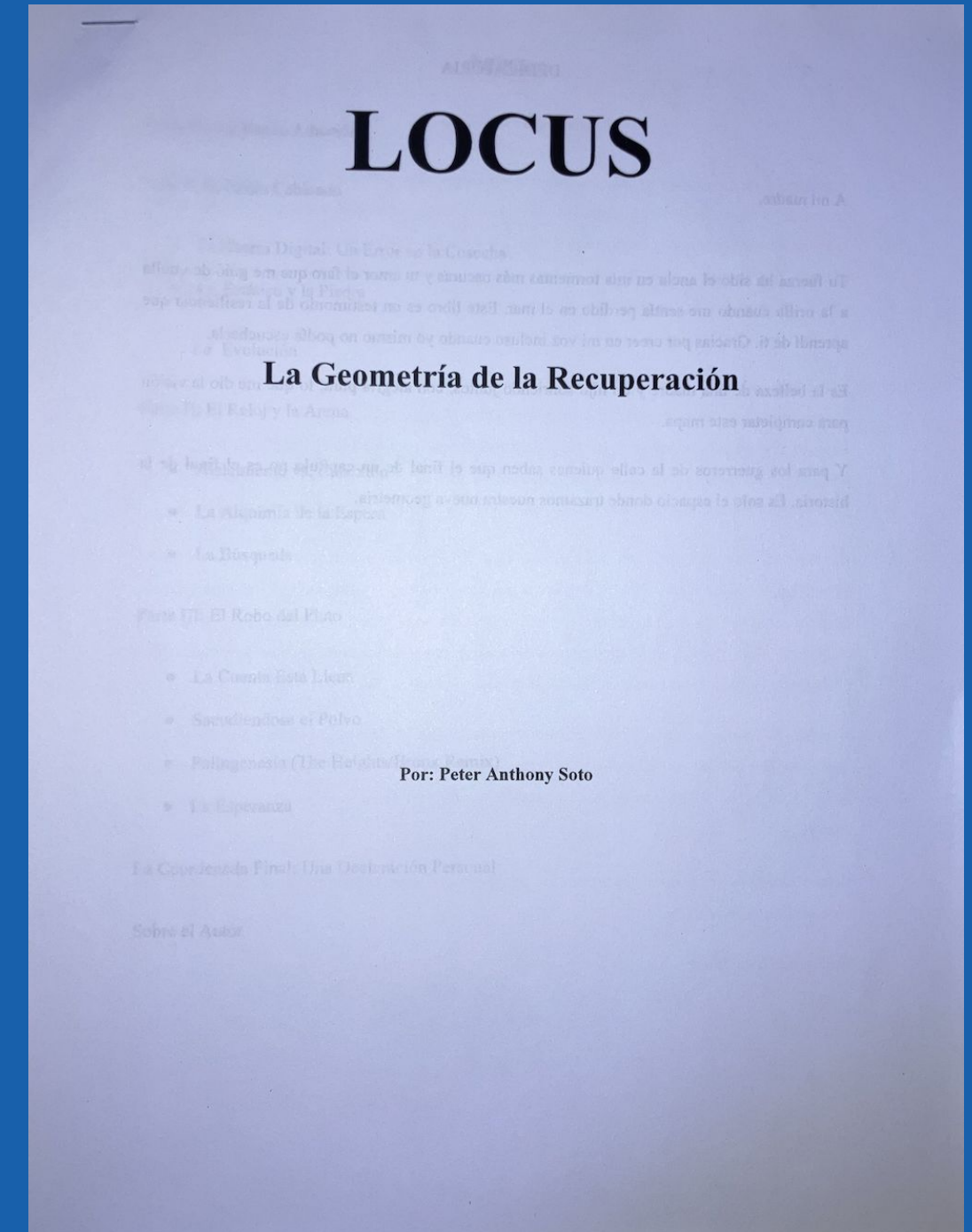
- 1) What are some ways that you freedom dream? Describe them.
- 2) “Freedom dreaming” is a term coined by Tourmaline, the author of the essay. If you had to come up with your own term for a practice or value that you live by, what would you call it? Write a manifesto essay in the style of Tourmaline.
- 3) Tourmaline asks three questions when she’s organizing: “What does the dominant culture have that we want? What does the dominant culture have that we don’t want? What do we have that we want to keep?” How would you answer?

IWI: Fortune Society 1:1

Site Coordinator: Mara Cavallaro | mmc2343@columbia.edu



- Frequency: Once a week
- Meeting Days: Likely Wednesday or Thursday afternoons
- # of Teachers: 3 (1 per genre)
- About: This is a **two-hour in person** commitment to hold office hours for writers at The Fortune Society in Long Island City, Queens. Mentors will work closely with students and provide in-depth feedback on their work.



IWI On-Campus Workshop

Site Coordinator: Mara Cavallaro | mmc2343@columbia.edu

- Frequency: Once a week
- Meeting Days: TBD
- # of Teachers: 2-4
- About: This is a weekly **two-hour in-person** writing workshop for formerly incarcerated writers taught **on Columbia's campus**. Co-teachers will work closely with each other to recruit students, develop writing exercises, and provide in-depth feedback on student work.

IWI: *Exchange*

Site Coordinator: Mara Cavallaro | mmc2343@columbia.edu

- Frequency: Once a week
- Meeting Days: Likely Wednesday 7:15
- # of Staff: The more the merrier!
- About: Exchange is the IWI's annual literary magazine. We publish visual artwork, fiction, nonfiction, and poetry. Our reading board meets **weekly in person** to read through mail, make recommendations for publication, and write feedback letters. Several editorial roles (Assistant Fiction Editor, Assistant Nonfiction Editor, and Assistant Poetry Editor) are also open!



IWI: Minutes Before Six

Site Coordinator: Mara Cavallaro | mmc2343@columbia.edu



- Frequency: Two in-depth feedback letters per semester
- Meeting Days: N/A
- # of Teachers: [FULL THIS SEMESTER]
- About: This is a **remote** opportunity for **10-15 people** to provide feedback to currently incarcerated writers through our partnership with Minutes Before Six (See more at minutesbeforesix.com). Writing coaches will work with one writer over the course of the academic year, sending two rounds of feedback on two pieces, pen-pal style. **While this site is full, please let us know if you are interested in being a substitute coach.**

IWI: Rikers TAsip (JIE)

Site Coordinator: Jessica Hoppe | kjh2188@columbia.edu

- Frequency: 2x week
- Meeting Days: Tuesday 4 p.m. – 6 p.m. & Friday 4 p.m. – 6 p.m.
- # of Teachers: [FULL THIS SEMESTER]
- About: Columbia's Justice in Education (JIE) Initiative offers two weekly two hour courses for college credit each semester at Rikers, including Music Humanities and Contemporary Civilization. CA/T Teachers paired with this program will work closely with the JIE professors as TAs, offering students **in person** support with homework for these college courses. Teachers must do additional trainings and be approved by the DOC. **TAsips will become available again in the spring semester.**

IWI: Rikers Writing Classes (JIE)

Site Coordinator: Jessica Hoppe | kjh2188@columbia.edu

- Frequency: 1x week
- Meeting Days: Fridays 1:45 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.
- # of Teachers: [FULL THIS SEMESTER]
- About: This is a **weekly two-hour in person** generative writing seminar taught at Rosie's (Rikers Island) for currently incarcerated writers. Teachers will work closely with both CA/T and Columbia's Justice in Education (JIE) Initiative. They will develop lesson plans and writing prompts. **While this site is full, please let us know if you are interested in being a substitute.**

Teaching Sites In-Progress

- The School at Columbia
- Columbia Medical Campus (Stroke Warriors)
- Creative Writing Workshop for survivors of gender-based violence
- Nature Writing at Fort Greene Park

Pedagogy

Teaching Beyond the Gates

- 13-WEEK, NON-CREDIT, TUITION-FREE COURSE
- FALL SEMESTER: FRIDAYS 11 A.M – 1 P.M.
- NEW TOPICS EACH WEEK FOCUSED ON TEACHING IN COMMUNITY-BASED SETTINGS

Writer as Teacher

- 3-CREDIT CROSS-GENRE SEMINAR
- TAUGHT IN FALL SEMESTER BY KERI BERTINO AND DOTTIE LASKY, AND IN SPRING BY KERI BERTINO
- EXPLORES THEORIES, PRACTICES AND CONCEPTS FOR TEACHING CREATIVE WRITING
- DESIGN AND TEACH A COLUMBIA COMMUNITY CLASS

The CTL, CA/T and Rose!



- The Center for Teaching and Learning is a resource for all graduate students at Columbia who are interested in education; it offers:
 - workshops
 - training
 - teaching consultations
 - general support
- Last year, when I was taking Teaching Beyond the Gates, the CTL served as an extra tool for questions about education and helped me further contextualize CA/T
- This year, I am one of the Writing Department's Lead Teaching Fellows, and I hope to further promote the relationship between CA/T and the CTL. If you have any questions about the CTL, CA/T, or their overlap, please reach out to me, and I will be so happy to help!
- <https://ctl.columbia.edu/> + located on the first floor of Butler Library

CAT Leadership

Faculty Advisors

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Next Steps

1. Add your email to our list via the link or qr code below to receive the interest form (NOW!)

<https://forms.gle/tyEgV9vxShiq8R1x5>



2. Fill out the interest form (By Saturday, Sept. 12 at 11:59 p.m.)
3. Receive assignments and start teaching! (approx. Sept. 18)
4. Stay tuned for our first-year position openings (end of semester)