



HANDWRITTEN INVITATION: A COLLECTION OF SHORT STORIES AND POEMS

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Introduction

The art of expression is part of the human experience and it helps remind people how connected they are to one another. Creative expression through literature is a key function of society providing both entertainment and a beautifully weaved tapestry of human connection.

Writing a collection of stories and poetry can be a vulnerable yet touching experience that hits at the poignant implications of literature. This collection of stories and poems will draw on the experiences of growing up, overcoming struggles, and making meaning out of the mundane. It will aim to be personally expressive while addressing commonalities within the human experience.

Both creative and relatable, this collection will testify to the beauty of being human in every peak and valley of life. Ultimately, the purpose of writing this piece is to engage an audience by making them reflect on the world around them while inspiring them to make meaning of the world around them.



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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Faculty Mentor, Dr. Stephanie Paterson, for providing me with the writing guide and for making me realize how important it is to share my stories.

Focus of the Collection

This collection will target certain topics that are both personally relevant and generally relatable. With this idea in mind, the audience will not only be able to relate to the content but will also see some of themselves within the pieces.

Themes like those listed below will be focused on in the stories and poems:

- ❖ Growing Up
- ❖ Overcoming Struggles
- ❖ Stress and Anxiety
- ❖ Finding Identity
- ❖ Writing as an Invitation
- ❖ Finding Importance in Small and Mundane Aspects of Life

These ideas will be communicated in a variety of ways such as the moral or lesson of a short story or as the entire focus or feeling of a poem. One or more of the selected themes will be applied to each piece to add to an overall feeling of cohesion.

Mentor Texts and Writing Guides

To prepare for this collection, a few mentor texts and writing guides were referred to in order to spark inspiration and understanding on how to approach the task. Each taught valuable lessons and reminders moving forward.

Mentor Texts

- ❖ *Furious Dusk* by David Campos
-Lesson: celebrate an individual's experience
- ❖ *The Collected Poems of Audre Lorde* by Audre Lorde
-Lesson: impact of a defined voice
- ❖ *Missing You, Metropolis* by Gary Jackson
-Lesson: creative expression can be both lighthearted and serious

Writing Guides

- ❖ *The Story Cure* by Dinty W. Moore
-Lessons: have a human connection in every piece, reflect on other authors and writing styles when stuck, use your own experiences in writing

A Handwritten Invitation

I feel like a writer's handwriting says a lot about them. It is a shame this fingerprint of text is often lost by the time a reader gets to read it. They have no ability to know how distinctly or -Times Roman an author's text truly is. They don't see the inconsistencies in how they write their letters. Or the way they cross out what they ~~don't~~ don't like. A reader doesn't get to see the process, ^{it's} as if the author were already perfect... Perhaps that is why they are the reader.

Well dear reader, allow me to offer you this handwritten invitation to my writing. I am far from perfect, so my writing is too. My letters don't all look pretty, my words don't always sound right, but my heart is in each one. I mess up, but writing forgives. She is a dear friend. She says you are more than a reader; you're a maker. Here is her handwritten invitation. Write away.

Draft One of the opening piece "A Handwritten Invitation" intended to be printed as a handwritten piece rather than typed

Methods

Participants

This project will have two main participants: the author and the readers. The targeted audience is adults and adolescent readers.

Materials

- ❖ mentor texts and writing guides to fully develop the writing and push the creativity of the pieces
- ❖ technological programming such as Word so that the pieces can be created in a digital format; notebooks may also be used for drafting
- ❖ a form of publication

Procedure

- ❖ initial research and reflection from other collections similar to this
- ❖ Outline and plan
- ❖ Compose a collection of several written works
- ❖ Edit the pieces
- ❖ Type pieces in a final draft document
- ❖ Determine the page layout and design for the final publication
- ❖ Self-publication

Goals of the Collection

- ❖ Contain passionately written works that have purpose
- ❖ Be enjoyed by a diverse audience
- ❖ Demonstrate the human experience in some capacity
- ❖ Demonstrate the creative process and its ability to allow for expression
- ❖ Remain authentic and provide insight, entertainment, and connection

Significance

Writing is a gateway to a person's soul. It allows them to be vulnerable, make connections, and express how human they are. By reading someone else's writing, one not only gains the experiences detailed but they also gain the opportunity to reflect on their own life. A collection such as this is significant because it can speak to a wide array of people. It will be significant for the lessons it will teach, the observations it will make and the hopeful inspiration it may bring.



Selected References

- Campos, D. (2015) *Furious Dusk*. Notre Dame, IN: University of Notre Dame Press.
- Jackson, G. (2010) *Missing You Metropolis*. Minneapolis, MN: Graywolf Press.
- Lorde, A. (1997) *The Collected Poems of Audre Lorde*. New York, NY: W.W. Norton & Company.
- Moore, D.W. (2017) *The Story Cure: A Book Doctor's Pain-Free Guide to Finishing your Novel or Memoir*. New York, NY: Ten Speed Press.