



Overview

Congratulations for being accepted into the The TTN Arts & Letters Fellowship for Creative Writing! This fellowship is about pushing your abilities as a writer. Stories shape the memories of our lives. When you tell someone about who you are, you tell them inside the framework of a story. Writers have long sought out the difficult, emotional, exciting, and polarizing subjects. You can't just sit in a blank room and bang out a novel that will change the world. You need to experience the world and let those experiences shape your writing.

Before You Leave (Optional)

While preparing for your trip and the story or essay you'll write, you'll need to do some research into writers that have come before and **analyze one of these books or short story collections** for creative inspiration and learning. **Choose 1 of these 3 options** but feel free to look at or study the other options if you're interested. The options are as follows:

- **Ernest Hemingway - *Short Stories*** - Read some of the works of Ernest Hemingway, one of the greatest short story and short novel writers in American history, and pull inspiration from his work as you think about what to write on your program.

- **Nerdwriter Video Essays - Poetry** - Nerdwriter1 is a fantastic youtube channel with topics ranging from understanding art to how some aspects of economics work. Watch these two videos about poetry and try to gain some insight into your own poetic style. Watch the videos in the questionnaire below.
- **The Geography of Bliss - Non-Fiction Novel** - Weiner spent a decade as a foreign correspondent reporting from such discontented locales as Iraq, Afghanistan, and Indonesia. Unhappy people living in profoundly unstable states, he notes, inspire pathos and make for good copy, but not for good karma. So Weiner, admitted grump and self-help book aficionado, undertook a year's research to travel the globe, looking for the "unheralded happy places." The result is this book, equal parts laugh-out-loud funny and philosophical, a journey into both the definition of and the destination for true contentment.

Once you're finished watching the film or book you choose, test your knowledge by answering the questions in the corresponding worksheets attached below.



On Program

Once on your program, think about what type of story you want to tell. First, decide if you want to create a fiction or nonfiction piece. Is this more of an essay or a short story? First person, third person? Is it about the other students, your own personal experience, the experiences of the locals you're meeting, something entirely different and unique? These are all things you'll need to think about while in country.

We recommend that you keep a journal during your time at the program. Not only will it give you reference material for your story, but the best way to come up with story ideas and angles is to put pen to paper and start writing. It will also focus your vision for what type of story you want to make when you get back home. If you suddenly come up with an interesting idea while journaling, write it down in the margins!

One of the biggest problems with stories from novice writers is a lack of conflict. Does your story have it? Even if it is nonfiction, your main character should have a clear motive or goal and some sort of opposition that tries to keep him from that goal.

If you need help or have questions or need some advice while on your program, be sure to reach out to your mentors or TTN's Creative Writing Fellowship Director, Matt Miller, at fellowships@teentravelnetwork.com.

Final Project

Now that you're back home, it's time to start writing your story. Take some time to review your journal. There is a lot that you can forget about in a couple weeks of intense, exciting adventure while in a different country.

Hopefully you've already decided on the type of story you want to write, so start writing! The best thing to do is just start typing and see where it leads. Some like to map out their story using outlines or mind maps, whatever your process the key is just not to give up and see it through to the end.

Write a story or essay that is **4-11 pages in length** and submit your story by **September 15th**. Submissions must be emailed to fellowships@teentravelnetwork.com.

Feel free to reach out to Matt Miller with any questions or advice about your project.

Completion

Once you finish and submit your video project, you will receive the following:

- A Certificate of Achievement
- A Fellowship Pin Honoring Your Achievement
- A Recommendation Letter from our Executive Director (upon request)
- Ability to add 'Arts & Letters Fellow' to your college application and resume
- Arts & Letters Competition - The TTN student with the best final product will be honored with a showcase, shared on all major TTN channels (including our 100K+ Facebook followers, 20K+ Instagram followers, etc.)

That's all you'll need to do to complete the Fellowship! Let us know if you have any questions. We can't wait to see what you create!

EXAMPLE: Creative Writing Final Project Evaluation Rubric

Student:

Final Project Format:

Fellowship Reviewer:

Did the final project meet the length requirements of 3-7 pages? ___ YES ___ NO (1 Point)

CRITERIA	<u>Excellent</u> 3 Points	<u>Great</u> 2 Points	<u>Good</u> 1 Point	<u>Needs Revision</u> 0 Points
Narrative Arc	<i>Fantastic set up of premise, great rising action, clear climax/focus, then resolution that shows change in character.</i>	<i>Good set up and rising action with a clear climax/focus, concise resolution.</i>	<i>Good setup with a clear climax/focus or a clear character change.</i>	<i>No setup, unclear climax or focus, no character change.</i>
Character	<i>Character(s) grow and change throughout the story, clear connection to climax/focus.</i>	<i>Character(s) change throughout the story. Connection to climax/focus.</i>	<i>Character(s) change throughout the story.</i>	<i>Character(s) do not change throughout the story.</i>
Style	<i>The style is unique and adds a fantastic feel to the creative piece without detracting from the content.</i>	<i>The style is good and adds to the enjoyment of the piece.</i>	<i>The voice/style is good, but sometimes inconsistent.</i>	<i>There is no style or the style detracts from the content of the piece.</i>
Connection to TTN Experience	<i>The story has a clear connection to what the student saw/learned through the TTN experience.</i>	<i>Story is based or focused around lessons learned from the TTN program</i>	<i>Story is loosely based or focused on the TTN program experience.</i>	<i>Story is not based or focused on the TTN program experience.</i>
Grammar & Structure	<i>Punctuation, spelling, and grammar are flawless.</i>	<i>Punctuation, spelling, and grammar are almost all correct, with a few errors.</i>	<i>Punctuation, spelling, and grammar are mostly correct.</i>	<i>Punctuation, spelling, and grammar are flawed with many errors.</i>

A score **above a 6** is considered a passing grade for your final project.
A score of **6 or below** will require the student to revise their submission.

EVALUATION SCORE: