

PODIUM RVA

PODIUM

FALL 2019

LITERARY ZINE FOR YOUTH AGES 10 - 13

IDENTITY AND COMMUNICATION

Enjoy youth pieces from Podium's partner locations:

Ekhardt Thompson MS

Lucille Brown MS

Quioccasin MS YMCA STAR Program

You cannot be a writer unless you see yourself as one.

Each middle school program begins with an exploration of ourselves as writers, creators, and communicators. Some work is created by the individual, and some work is a collaborative effort among several people.



What is Community?

ETMS AND LBMS GROUP DEFINITIONS:

- HOME, WHERE OUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS ARE; OUR GROUP
- THE PEOPLE IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD
- THE PEOPLE YOU LOVE
- FAMILY, PETS, AND FRIENDS
- A PLACE WHERE PEOPLE LIVE, GROW, AND THRIVE TOGETHER
- ARTISTS

What is Identity?

ETMS AND LBMS GROUP DEFINITIONS:

- WHO ARE YOU AND WHO YOU LOVE
- YOUR NAME, AND OTHER WAYS THAT PEOPLE KNOW YOU
- HOW YOU LOOK, ACT AND YOUR PERSONALITY
- QUALITIES AND TRAITS THAT ARE SPECIFIC TO YOU
- HOW OLD ARE YOU AND FAMILY TRAITS

THE ART OF PERSUASION

Youth practice the art of persuasion in a variety of ways, from advertisements to team debates! This begs the questions, which side are you on?

Can Graffiti Be Considered Art?

**BY JADON M.
LUCILLE BROWN MS**

Graffiti is a type of art.

It helps if someone wants another to make art on the walls.

Graffiti is a type of art, unless a gang is doing graffiti.

Then, it is not art.

Graffiti can get positive attention at places such as a museum.

We Should Vote for What We Eat

**BY RICKARA C.
EKHARDT THOMPSON MS**

I think we should vote on lunches, so we can eat what we like every day.

Sometimes they can give us food that I don't like, and I don't eat at all.

Instead, I eat when I go to NextUp, unless it's a Friday.

They should let us vote, so we won't starve at lunch and have to wait until we get home. Most every day, there is food I don't like and it gets on my nerves. I have braces, so I can't eat whole fruits. And I love apples, so I eat the apples slices they have. Sometimes, they don't have

Can Kindness Become Cool?

**BY JA'NYLA J.
LUCILLE BROWN MS**

Kindness can be cool.

People get mad when people are not kind to each other, but

Kindness makes people smile.

Kindness makes people happy.

Kindness is the right thing to do.

Should You Be Able To Grade Your Teachers?

**BY KENDALIYAH C.
EKHARDT THOMPSON MS**

We should be able to grade our teachers because we might get good or bad grades. If they get something wrong, it should go on their personal record. Teachers should get report cards and interim reports, so school can be fairer and more equal.

Can Graffiti Be Considered Art?

**BY HERBERT B.
LUCILLE BROWN MS**

Graffiti can be considered art. First, you have to know that art is to consider something else to be art. Art is a way to express your feelings, so technically, if it represents your inner self, it is a form of art. Graffiti is a way to express yourself or identity. Yes, Graffiti can be illegal, but it is more than that.



THE GREAT CANDY DEBATE

Between Sour Patch Kids and Milky Ways, which candy is THE BEST? Unsure? Let us convince you!

Pro Sour Patch Kids

PRESENTED BY TEAM SPY KIDS: DONNASIA B., JEREMIAH B., AND ANGEL H. EKHARDT THOMPSON MS

Welcome and thank you for attending this debate. Sour Patch Kids are the best because they are sour, and then sweet. They have so many colors and flavors. Sour Patch Kids are very popular on Instagram. Lots of people love them.

They are so delicious that you can eat them at breakfast, lunch and dinner. They taste so good, they put you in La La Land. They are soft and chewy and their commercials are very fun.

On the other hand, a Milky Way is too small. It's like a one-bite size piece of chocolate. When you eat a Milky Way, it makes your mouth dry. A Milky Way can melt in your pocket, unlike Sour Patch Kids, which can stay in your pocket forever, so that you can eat them any time you want. Some people are allergic to chocolate, peanuts, caramel, and milk, which can cause death. Caramel is messy and sticky and it makes your teeth look dirty. A Milky Way can kill your family's pet dog. Finally, a Milky Way is a Twix rip-off.

Sour Patch Kids are cheaper than Milky Way, and that is why they are the best. In conclusion, Sour Patch Kids are the best because they have many upgrades, and they are sour and sweet.

Opening Statement Presented by Operation Milky Way

**BY RICKARA C., KANIYA D., AND
LUTHER D.W.
ELKHARDT THOMPSON MS**

All candies are good, but Milky Ways are the best. They are chocolatey, sweet, chewy, and melt in your mouth. If you put them in the freezer, they taste even better. They come in multiple sizes, while Sour Patch Kids only are one size. They are versatile!

But with Sour Patch Kids, you cannot do as much. They are more expensive and have a higher chance of getting stuck in your teeth, especially if you have braces. If you put them in the freezer, they will only get hard and not taste very good. Sour Patch Kids are too sour for some people. Also, Sour Patch Kids are made from chemicals that are not good for the body.

Good vs. Bad Debaters

**GROUP PIECE
ELKHARDT THOMPSON MS**

Not-So-Good Debater

- Make it personal
- Lie and give misinformation
- Crack jokes and make others feel bad
- Don't explain well
- Don't present facts
- Break rules

Good Debaters

- Give good reason for their arguments
- Have good knowledge and education about their topics
- Speak clearly
- Use persuasion
- Keep personal attacks out of the debate
- Take notes on what the other team says.

Sour Ladies

**BY ARIELLE F., CYNTHIA H., JA'NYLA J., AND TI'ELLE Y.
LUCILLE BROWN MS**

Thank you for coming out to our debate, We are team Sour Ladies and we are very polite. Sour Patch Kids have a diverse flavor and unique packaging. They are sour then sweet, and they are the highest liked candy, unlike Milky Way. Sour Patch Kids are more entertaining then Milky Ways. The shapes are people while Milky Ways are only one shape. Just like people, Sour Patch Kids are sour on the outside and sweet on the inside.

Milky Ways are not as popular as Sour Patch Kids. Sour Patch Kids are some of the most popular candies in the U.S. Milky Ways are too boring, too rich, too sweet, and the caramel is too sticky. They stick to the roof of your mouth and get stuck in your teeth. This can lead to cavities.

In conclusion, Sour Patch Kids are the best candy. They are sour on the outside and sweet on the inside. They have lots of flavor and are a lot of fun to eat.

Sorry, I Was Eating a Milky Way

**BY HERBERT B., XAIVER M., JADON M., AND ZAFIR S.
LUCILLE BROWN MS**

Sour Patch Kids... ARE TOO SOUR FOR KIDS! They can cause cancer from artificial flavors. In their commercial, they promote violence. Sour Patch Kids are sticky, messy, and they promote cannibalism to your children. They don't look like children and don't live up to their name.

Now, let's talk about Milky Ways. Milky Ways are soft and creamy. Chocolate is proven to be healthy. You could be discreet with eating a Milky Way; it just melts in your mouth! It's not messy, unless it's melting, but that's all candy. Even with our commercial. it shows we all make mistakes. Chocolate is also proven to be an antidepressant. Milky Way is out of this world!

Good vs. Bad Debaters

**A GROUP PIECE
LUCILLE BROWN MS**

Not-So-Good Debaters

- Get angry or are disrespectful
- Put their personal lives into the discussion
- Are uncivil and selfish
- Say one thing, then say the opposite later on
- Lie or are hypocritical
- Get physical

Good Debaters

- Do not use personal attacks
- Value facts over opinions
- Are open minded
- Stay on topic and are well prepared
- Debate with respect and civility towards others
- Maintain eye contact and are good public speakers

Purchase These Makeup Brushes!

**BY MALIA H.
LUCILLE BROWN MS**

For each makeup brush you buy,
you donate money to a child in need.
If you buy it, then you're a great person
because you're helping a homeless child.
If you don't,
then you're selfish and uncaring for others.

CREATIVE FREE WRITES

Our Summer Adventure

A GROUP PIECE
ELKHARDT THOMPSON MS

Five weeks ago, we went to the state fair. My family checked out the petting zoo, When we got to the pigs, all there was, was a plush pig head. That's all. And we went on a rollercoaster. Right after we've eaten, so my cousin was a little shaking and threw up on my sister. There were no showers nearby. So we had to dunk my sister in the river. When my sister was dunked in the river she yelled so loud my ears hurt. She did not know how to swim, so someone jumped in to help her.

After, we went home. The next day, I got my own room but also found out my fish died, So, my friend Luther got me a new pet and then left. After, I ate some bacon. Then after eating bacon, we went to my cousins house and told my aunt about this crazy day!

A Commercial

BY ARIANA V.
LUCILLE BROWN MS

You should buy it because
It is a good brand.

It kills all of
Your germs.

If you use

It you won't get sick.

When you're sick, you
Feel sad and yucky.

If you use it you

Won't be sick and sad.

You will be happy.

It smells good.

Our Summer Adventure

A GROUP PIECE
ELKHARDT THOMPSON MS

Five weeks ago, we went to the state fair. My family checked out the petting zoo. When we got to the pigs, all there was, was a plush pig head. That's all. And we went on a rollercoaster. Right after we've eaten, so my cousin was a little shaking and threw up on my sister. There were no showers nearby. So we had to dunk my sister in the river. When my sister was dunked in the river she yelled so loud my ears hurt. She did not know how to swim, so someone jumped in to help her.

After, we went home. The next day, I got my own room but also found out my fish died. So, my friend Luther got me a new pet and then left. After, I ate some bacon. Then after eating bacon, we went to my cousins house and told my aunt about this crazy day!

Advice on a Bad Day

A GROUP PIECE
QUIOCCASIN MS

If someone was having a bad day, I would...

- Help them and listen to them.
- Ask about their day and if they are okay.
- Tell them to cry into a pillow, hold a stuffed animal, or play Fortnite.
- Say that I am sorry that I can't help but that it will be okay and that they can cry.
- Let them vent and talk to me while I just listened.
- If my sibling was having a bad day, I would not help them.
- If it was my friend, I would help them out, but if it were my brothers, I would talk with my parents first.
- I would tell a teacher if my friend was having a bad day, but I wouldn't care as much if it were my brother or sister.

STORY

CUBES!

Artists roll anywhere from 1-9 dice with pictures on them.

Can you make up a story on the spot? TRY IT YOURSELF!

A 13-Dice Roll

A GROUP PIECE

I was reading when somebody called me. The person on the phone was scolding me, and it made me sad. The sun rose. One kid shrunk and another kid grew. The person laughed because they locked themselves out of the house. Somebody called me when I was playing video games, so I thre them off a bridge. Then, I had an idea I will create a puzzle of an ocean. Then, a person fell on top of a dinosaur skeleton

Sun, Fish, TNT, and Magnifying Glass

BY KRISHIKA K.

One day, it was got outside, so hot that I was burning, Then, I saw a fish, but it was too small to catch. So, I used my magnifying glass to make it large, but it didn't work. Finally, I used some TNT, and I burned the fish alive.

Hands and Gears

BY JUSTIN K.

I was going far on a trip in my car. Then, something happened to it. I had to use my hands to fix the gears in the front of the car. After, I went all the way to Jupiter!

Music, Flashlight, and Butterfly Catching

BY NICOLE F.

I was listening to music because I was bored. Then, I turned on my flashlight and went downstairs to eat. My sister was down there catching butterflies, so I was distracted from getting my snack.

A 9-Dice Roll

BY JEENA K.

One day, when I wanted to go outside, I checked the direction the wind was blowing. I looked outside, and it was raining. So then, I decided to listen to music and count my money. But I got hungry, so I ate an apple. It got dark, so I thought about doing shadow puppets. After that, I got a laser gun, toasted some bread, and ate it.

I thought I heard someone in the house. I found them later and started fighting them. It turned out to be my twin sister, Justina!

Earth

BY MARISOL A.

One day, I was thinking about whether or not the Earth was a square or a circle. I pretended to be an astronaut so I went up into space and headed to the moon from there I saw Earth was round!

PERSONAL MEMOIRS

Stories about an important part of our lives. What would you say?

Birthday Celebration!

**BY TIANA W.
ELKHARDT THOMPSON MS**

One day, I woke up to the smell of a nice morning breakfast. It was my birthday. I rushed downstairs, went to the table, and saw a luxurious breakfast. When my family sat down, we ate and enjoyed ourselves. We went to my closet, got my light-up skirt rink, and I got a new phone. It was fun at the party. We had nachos, pizza, and cake.

Red Ravens

**BY LARRY W.
LUCILLE BROWN MS**

I was playing football, and I got hit in the head. While I was on defense, I played for the Red Ravens.

The Aquarium

**BY CYNTHIA H.
LUCILLE BROWN MS**

One of the memories that I love is my 12th birthday. My family took me to an aquarium. They also took me there six to seven months after I was born, so it felt special going there again. The aquarium's name was The Baltimore Aquarium.

It was so cool because I saw sharks, turtles, jellyfish, and stingrays. There was a show about dolphins doing tricks, and I even got to learn new facts about sharks and jellyfish.

Memoir

**BY ARIELLE F.
LUCILLE BROWN MS**

When I was little, my Dad was never there, but my Stepdad was always there. I have nine siblings. I got depressed and started doing hurtful things. I wanted to stop, so I figured out how to stop. It was by singing and writing my own songs. Then, I figured out that I love to praise-dance in church because it lets me set myself free.

Everyone would call me bossy. I had to figure out how to get rid of that too, and I did it by making my own businesses. Being the boss, I talk about things or write out my stories, then sing them out. So, when I had a diary, it would never stay a diary because I would always end up walking around singing my life. People would ask me, "Where did you find that song? I want it." I tell them, "It's the song of my life!"

Memoir

**BY CENIQUE H.
ELKHARDT THOMPSON MS**

A couple of days ago, I was sitting in my room on Instagram looking at crafts. I went to eat and then came back to my room. I was pretty bored, so I did what I always do... CREATE! I didn't want to design clothes at the moment, so I went into my jewelry box, and took out the following: an old chain, a charm bracelet. I attached one earring on each bracelet by the little earpiece. So that it would poke me, I tucked the earpiece around the bracelets.

Trip to PA

**BY RICKARA C..
ELKHARDT THOMPSON MS**

Last summer, I went to Pennsylvania with my grandma. I waited for the train to come with my sisters, Mom and Dad. When the train came, we got on the train and said goodbye to my family. When I couldn't see my sisters from the train anymore, the first thing I thought about was that my sisters would be crying.

The train took us to Washington to stay for some hours. I slept on the train three times. When we finally got to Pennsylvania, the train went backwards to change tracks and it took a while. When I got off, my cousin and uncle took me to their house to spend the night. My sounds in and I watched a movie called *Us*. The movie was scary and good at the same time. I spent the night there for a whole week. Soon after, I went home.

Beach Bunny

**BY MALIA H.
LUCILLE BROWN MS**

I like the voice of Beach Bunny because of their song "Prom Dress." The song overall has a great message about beauty and body positivity. And you don't have to worry about how you look!

No Personal Business

**BY LUTHER D.W.
ELKHARDT THOMPSON MS**

It was a Wednesday, between 3 a.m. and 3:09 a.m. when my friend Kevin and I went ghost hunting in the woods, we found an abandoned school bus and went up to it. My friend went up to it and wet his pants because he was super scared, but I went inside the bus.

CREATIVE POETRY

Pay attention for special use of cinquain, acrostics, and
different rhyming patterns!

Read

BY KANIYA D.
EKHARDT THOMPSON MS

Read stories with real people
Especially in a quiet place
Actions books
Dog comics are my favorite

Myself

BY NAKIA A.
EKHARDT THOMPSON MS

Everything
Animals
Roads connect us
Technology
Humans

Meliodas

BY TI'ELLE Y.
LUCILLE BROWN MS

Mastered his powers... not
Everyone wants to be with him
Loyal to his family and friends
Intelligent in his attack strategies
Often being perverted

Baby Brother

BY JA'NYLA J.
LUCILLE BROWN MS

I have a baby brother
He loves to play,
Him and my mother
At home they stay.

Eggs

BY ZAFIR S.
LUCILLE BROWN MS

Eggs
Wet, Hard
Crack, Smashing, Eating
Soft, Yummy, Good,
Breakfast
Fragile

Classroom

BY HERBERT B.
LUCILLE BROWN MS

Classroom
Pencils writing steadily
Children flaunting paper
Today kids will work
Knowledge for teachers to cater.

Oh, the stress of math
Children doodles on desk
The teacher announces,
"What is 2x five less?"

Now sprouts look at confusion
Teacher notices, so she says again
"2x five less" with aggression.
One kids says with fear, "Ten?"

"Correct."



K-Pop

BY CYNTHIA H.
LUCILLE BROWN MS

Kind

Positive

Original

Protective

Owl

BY JADON M.
LUCILLE BROWN MS

Owl

Majestic, Secretive

Flying, Hunting, Seeing

Safe, Trusting, Spirit

Animal

Wisdom

Earth

BY DONNASIA B.
EKHARDT THOMPSON MS

Everything

Animals

Roads connect us

Technology

Humans

Kangaroo

BY ANGEL H.
ELKHARDT THOMPSON MS

Kangaroo

Jumping, Have Babies

Kick and Jump

Scary Because They

Could Kick Me

Cool

The Mouse

**BY KANIYA D.
ELKHARDT THOMPSON MS**

There once was a nurse
Who lived in a room
In the kitchen where I cooked
Right by the broom.

Jealous

**BY KELLI-ANN H.
ELKHARDT THOMPSON MS**

Jealous
Smells like dodo
Taste like grass
Sounds like a snake when
you're close to their rattle
Feels like heartburn
Feels like fire
Feels like when your
crush likes another girl,
And not you
Jealous

Myself

**BY ARIELLE F.
LUCILLE BROWN MS**

Appealing
Radiant
Insightful
Evangelical
Loving
Lucky
Enlightened

The Feeling Poem

**BY NAH'SHARI P.
LUCILLE BROWN MS**

Distant
Smells like fire
Taste like bitterness
Sounds quiet
Feels like emptiness
Feels like loneliness
Feels like sadness
Distant

Ima Make an App

**BY XAVIER M.
LUCILLE BROWN MS**

Ima make an app
Not like the ones for phones.
Got some chicken nuggets, I'm gone.
This app gonna make a rap, not even gonna cap,
Finna make this a track.
Lawyer is calling. I'm him, postpone.
Got me a bond I'm really fond,
Got some money, it's where it's at.
Chasing for the top, and that's the facts.
Better watch your tone.
Pulling up on your block with a ding dong
Pull in people over your taps.

Listening

**BY TIANA W.
EKHARDT THOMPSON MS**

Listening
Smells like Lysol in a classroom
And taste like peanut butter cookies
Sounds like calm music you use to sleep
Feels like slime with foam beads and ice cream
and pizza
Feels like when people have their eyes on you
Listening

Tomato

**BY LUTHER D.W.
EKHARDT THOMPSON MS**

Tomato
Red, Juicy
Grows, Squish, Eat
Good, Hungry, Bad, Fall
Fruit



Zombies

**BY AZAYVION D.
EKHARDT THOMPSON MS**

Zombies
Die or Alive
Eat People or Eat Brains
Scary and Terrifying
Don't Have Feelings
Dangerous

Mysterious

**BY TI'ELLE Y.
LUCILLE BROWN MS**

Mysterious
Smells like the cold
Tastes like everything
Sounds like silence
Feels like a hand on your shoulder
Feels like uncertainty
Feels like a shiver down your spine
Mysterious

Alone

**BY XAVIER
LUCILLE BROWN MS**

Alone
Smells like gold
Tastes like nothingness
Sounds like the air
Feels like loneliness
Feels like power
Alone



JOIN US IN THE WRITING REVOLUTION!

WWW.THEPODIUMFOUNDATION.ORG



@PODIUMRVA



PODIUMFOUNDATION

THEPODIUMFOUNDATION.TUMBLR.COM

EMPOWERING CREATIVE EXPRESSION
AND PROMOTING WRITING EXCELLENCE