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.

Enjoy youth pieces from Podium’s partner locations:

Elkhart Thompson MS
Henderson MS
Lucille Brown MS

For printed copies, please contact us at: info@thepodiumfoundation.org
Podium is a part of life.
It helps us keep going and forget about strife.
It helps us relax because it’s at the end of the day,
And it helps keep all of life’s distractions far, far away.

Podium makes time fly by.
People think it’s hard, but it’s easy as pie.
Podium is good, not bad,
So join in our creativity and don’t be sad!
Environmental Emergency
Ilaria B.R.
Henderson MS

We boarded a cruise ship from Ohio to Cuba (Yes, it works). The boat started to move backwards. It hit a brick, and the ship stopped. We saw land, so the captain reversed the ship, went forward, and called it a speed bump. A few hours later, we docked and decided to stay (Because, why not?). The next day, we woke up to an orange sky with purple sand, but our cruise ship was gone! The captain left us!

We had nothing to eat, or so we thought, until the Monopoly Man popped up in a big coat. Inside his coat was food. One side had hot dogs and chicken, and the other side had fries. Now, we are stuck on this island without any supplies, except for the Monopoly Man.

We Love, But We Hate
Queen M.
Elkhardt Thompson MS

We have a love hate relationship.
We love to hate, but hate to love.

Physically we are a mile apart,
But mentally you’re in my heart.
The hardest part of moving on is letting go.
You were strong enough to knock me down,
But I’ve toughened up to get back up.
I hate you so much that it is impossible to love you.
Love can be love, but hating you is sad.
Hate can be hate, but loving you makes me glad.

We have a love hate relationship
We love to hate, but hate to love.
Love and Hate
Paris S.
Lucille Brown MS

Love and hate have a relationship.
I mean, you can love and hate someone,
But that doesn’t mean you truly hate them.
Love is complicated, and so is hate.
Love can be confusing, sad, stressful.
Hate is . . .
Heartbreaking sometimes. Other times, it’s confusing.

We Hate, We Love
Claude C.
Henderson MS

Claude hates tomatoes.
We all love potatoes.
We love when there’s snow
Because we can stay inside and bake cookie dough.
We move with haste
Because we hate when people walk slow.
Claude hates dirt.
We all have clean shirts.
We all hate when we get our feelings hurt.
We bodied this poem, so let’s put it in a Hearse.
Break it
Malia H.
Lucille Brown MS

You told me you loved me. You said you would never hurt me. You said I was your Only love. ‘Til she came into our perfect life. Coming home at 2am, saying you were, “Working late”. Pretending I wouldn’t notice the hickies on your chest. No matter how hard I tried to fix it, it wouldn’t work. So, I’ll just Break it.
My Vacation
Michael H.
Elkhardt Thompson MS

I would go to an infinite void where I could do anything I want to do. For example, I could go skiing, to football games, or do whatever! My vacation space is going to be an infinite void where you can wish for stuff, and it will instantly pop up in your hand! There is one, main rule for taking the stuff you wish for outside of the void. The thing you wish for will disappear unless you come back within 24-hours!
Don’t be Afraid
Aquariya W.
Henderson MS

Don’t be afraid
To stand up for yourself.
Don’t let people get you enraged,
Put your emotions up on a shelf.
Don’t get to a point when you have to scream for help!

Love and Hate
Kearstin R.
Elkhardt Thompson MS

The difference between hate and love is that it takes more energy to hate someone than to love them. Loving someone is forever, but you will only hate them for a short period of time. Hate is fighting and arguing with someone. Love is being kind and helpful to someone.

Comfortable Silence
Killia Jones
Lucille Brown MS

We walk in comfortable silence, feet slowing sinking into the sand. Austin’s fingers fitting perfectly with mine. I can feel my heart that beats only for him. The butterflies that once tickled my stomach have now migrated to my heart, fluttering and pulling at the wings of love.
Emergency Broadcast
Killia Jones
Lucille Brown MS

We were sitting in class just like any other day. All of a sudden, sirens began to ring, quietly at first, then gradually, they got louder. “Attention!” A male robotic voice said, “This is not a drill! Seek cover immediately! A ballistic missile has been detected! Seek cover now!” The room fell silent, but felt chaotic.

Outside of school, every television in the United States made an eerie alarm sound. “Warning!” It said, “This is not a test, this is your emergency broadcasting system. North Korea and Russia have launched a ballistic missile attack on the United States, Central America, Canada, and Great Britain. The attacks will commence in three days. Starting with the siren, D-Day will begin. A bright flash followed by a big explosion will destroy the area. Police, firefighters, the army, and emergency services will be available 12-hours after the initial blast. Blessed be our country, and may God be with you all.”
One Saturday afternoon, Stephen Curry and his family went to the Apple Store. He bought his daughter an iPad and whispered to her, “We are going to surprise your mom with the newest iPhone. Tell her to go look in the back for the oldest iPhone. I’ll buy the iPhone XR and put it in my pocket.”

They go home, and Steph called Ayesha’s parents. They already knew their daughter was getting the new phone. Steph and his daughter go out while Ayesha’s parents are still talking to her. Her parents lied and said her dad had shingles, so they won’t be able to come over. At the Apple Store, Steph and Riley bought the iPhone XR. Then, they met up at 7-11 and got her parents. They drove home and surprised Ayesha with it. She went in the backyard and made a snow angel with a big smile on her face!
**Theme Song:** You take a Bob and a Billy, a Billy and a Bob, a Bobby, a Billy, a Billy, and a Bob. It’s The Bob and Billy Show!

**Bob:** Welcome to The Bob and Billy Show!

**Billy:** Today we have a special guest.

**Bob:** The special guest is…

**Both:** SARAH!

**Sarah:** Hiii!

**Billy:** Tell us about yourself.

**Sarah:** Well, My name is Sarah and I’m 5-years-old.

**Bob:** Five! Really? You look 12.

**Sarah:** I know.

**Billy:** Wow, that’s okay. So Sarah, how’s life?

**Sarah:** Okay. How’s life for you?

**Billy:** Depressing.

**Bob:** And that’s our show!

*Theme song again*

**Eagles**

**Paris S.**

**Lucille Brown MS**

My favorite animal, the Eagle, has been a symbol of power and strength for millennia. From the extinct Haast Eagle to our nation’s symbol, the Bald Eagle, these birds are very majestic. Big and armed with hooked beaks and talons, eagles are the patrol of the sky.
The TWINTS
Connie W.
Henderson MS

The TWINTS is a very cool creature. It runs on its arms and feet. It has a lot of fur and eats trash and anything it can find. It loves to eat but hates being hungry. The TWINTS has supernatural powers. It can breathe without air. It lives on Earth but came from Pluto. When Pluto blew up, the TWINTS had nowhere to go. So it traveled, traveled, and traveled until it hit Earth. The TWINTS didn’t know what to do, so it made a home and started searching for friendly creatures like itself.

The Adventures of Drama Land
Michael H., Autumn J., and Queen M.
Elkhardt Thompson MS

During the day, four teens were secretly kidnapped from school. When they woke up, they were in a dark room with a portal to the world called Drama Land. Malissa, Ari, Jacob, and Brook went into the portal and saw a land of people arguing, fighting, and kissing other people’s boyfriends and girlfriends. They found a way out and walked all the way home. But before they got home, they saw a brawl in the road. They ran home after seeing a few black cars pulling up to the fight.
Love and Hate
Rodney P.
Lucille Brown MS

Hate is when you strongly dislike someone. Love is when you have deep feelings for someone you like. But, when do you draw the line between love and hate? When something happens to a person you feel for, you wish you could have known them more.

A Thin Line Between Love and Hate
Shyhiem B.
Elkhardt Thompson MS

Love is strong affection for another, arising out of friendship or personal ties, and based on admiration, benevolence, or common interest. Hate is intense hostility and aversion, usually deriving from fear, anger, or a sense of injury. You will still love a person while you hate them. The love will build up, you will build up, and soon, you will stop hating them. Remember, love takes over.
Sad and Crying
Jaylen T.
Henderson MS

I am homeless,
And I have nowhere to live.
It gets cold outside sometimes,
And I'm lonely like a goose.

Giving Season
A’ne T.
Lucille Brown MS

On Christmas, people are outside and have no family to spend Christmas with. They walk outside by other people’s houses and feel sad when thinking about their family. They say, “No, I can’t do this anymore. I have to find my family.”

He had a father. It is not cool that he can’t come inside. It can’t get worse, so I came around to help him. I asked him to come in and if he wanted some food, shelter, clothes, or some money. Here you go! All the stuff I said before, you can have it. I love you, even if you do not know me at all. And when you go home, please let me know that you are ok.
## Word Search!

### Connie W.
### Henderson MS

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### Word Bank

1. BEING BAKER
2. LOSING FAMILY
3. CHEATED
4. SWIM
5. EAT
6. AMAZING
7. MUSIC
8. BEING WITH PEOPLE
9. TALKING
10. MOMMY
11. READING
I am going on a cruise to a harbor in December for Christmas. I can’t wait to go on a cruise! If I was in a tornado, I would hide.

If I Were in a Tsunami
Emma M.
Elkhart Thompson MS
If I were in a tsunami,
I would get on a plane
And fly high
To not die.

My vacation would be at the beach. I would want to go because it is nice, fun, and sunny. It would have to be Virginia Beach, and I would want it to be hot and very sunny.
NYC Typhoon  
Autumn J.  
Elkhardt Thompson MS

I want to go to New York because I have family there, and I want to try their pizza since it is big. I want to see the Statue of Liberty. If a typhoon happened, I would get into a good hiding spot.

Vacation Shortfall  
Liniyah M.  
Lucille Brown MS

Life never goes like I want it to go. But, life goes how parents want it to go, and that is irritating to me. I wanted to go to Kings Dominion’s Sky Zone and the hotel, but it didn’t go my way. It went my parents’ way, and that irritates me and makes me mad quick. But it will be okay. When I get older and turn 20 or 22, I am going to go places by myself!
A Girl's Current Chaotic Life
Adriana K.
Lucille Brown MS

A girl with many dreams in life is currently enraged. The fire burns everything that makes her life full of happiness, turning it into the opposite of what she wanted. The fire keeps spreading, minute by minute. It’s getting worse and worse by the second.

She is trying to not explode, trying not to get stressed, and trying to keep everything together. It’s not working. Nothing stays together. She tries and tries but nothing works. She needs a miracle. A miracle that will have a big impact on her life. A good impact!

Ideal Vacation
Shyheim B.
Elkhardt Thompson MS

My vacation spot is Hawaii. I will go to the capital of Hawaii, which is Honolulu. I will be there for two weeks and will see the sunset and be at the beach every day! If there is a flood, I will be stuck in Hawaii. But, I will be prepared. I will always have food with me in Hawaii because you never know what could happen!
In My World
Adaviyah A.
Henderson MS

In my world, the place is dreamy.
In my world, it’s comfy and fun.
It has pillows and blankets
And is a place where I can just be myself.

---

Change Our Nation
Herbert B.
Lucille Brown MS

Christmas is a day
Where people’s problems go away.
Hidden under festive decorations and costumes,
Waiting for Santa in the place they lay.
And, on Christmas day,
War is still happening while you sit by the fire.
You think about the problem in your silly attire.
Take it into consideration
The problems of our generation.
In a deep meditation,
While my mind is on vacation,
This state of meditation
Brings me to frustration.
So, as a whole nation,
Let’s change our reality
And embrace this morality.
Alien Invasion:
On May 11th, 2019, Aliens invaded planet Earth. I am a highly intelligent agent with many skills. I work and help our at many different companies. I’m planning how to get people to a different planet in less than 12 hours. I tell the President and other recruits my plan. We load our ships with food, devices to help us breathe on the new planet, tools to help us on our planet, and clothes.

The new planet is mostly a city. It is beautiful and has a lot of space. I told the general of the army to take out most of the aliens watching in the sky, so we can get through. The war started and loading ships lined up to defeat the aliens. Many people, 200,000, did not survive, including my friends, family, and others. Some people lived, and I was the only person alive from the government.

Years later, we adapted to the new planet. It’s much more like Earth. The only difference is that we have Supergirl, Superman, their family, other aliens, god, and metahumans like them. The Flash is my favorite. Life here is the best, but we never know if an invasion will happen again. One thing I do know is that if it happens again, we will fight back and not run. This planet is ours, and it will always be!

Space Travel:
Everything was going great until one of my partners went missing. His name is Telon Johnson. He is 22-years-old, very smart, trustworthy, and caring. He’s been missing for four hours. When I went to check for him by the spaceships, one was missing. Trying to calm down, I thought he just went on a mission to get something. I tried communicating with him on the radio, but all I got was static. I called in my twelve other partners and told seven of them to make sure not a word about his disappearance gets out. I didn’t want anyone but my partners to know because everyone loves Telon.

I set up a plan with my five partners left. We packed up our spaceships and tried to relocate his ship. Hours later, we couldn’t find him or even locate him, so we went home hoping and praying he was okay.
Lavel’s world is called Earth 2.0. The government is pretty good, but not the best. The government will be better than the Trump Administration. People will still murder, but it will be better than the Earth we live on today. There is a divide between Lavel’s & Ilaria’s world.

In Ilaria’s world, the purge will happen every day! This world is called Hell. They only eat cold hot pockets, dry ramen noodles, and are always scrounging around for food.

There are two governments. Earth 2.0 is more civilized, and Hell is hectic. Hell’s goal is to wipe out the entire population. On Earth 2.0, the purge will happen if the population hits over 8.5 billion citizens. Earth 2.0 is not only hectic in rare cases. If you have more than 10 kills on Earth 2.0, you will be sent to Ilaria’s Hell world.

My name is Dark Vador. I will rule your planet, destroy every one, and take all of your food and water. I have been around for one billion years. To defend my planet, I have Wonder Woman and Naruto.

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Welcome to Entertainment Planet! Although the sign says “Movies,” it has all the entertainment you can think of. This planet is just like earth. The only fear you should have is of the creepy pasta memes. This planet was found on 5/8/30046 (in Earth years) and is used to bore memes, movies, tv shows, and games. Creepy pastas have been feared since they came to this planet. At any moment, their leader can destroy this world.

Memento Mori
Larry W.
Lucille Brown MS
This is the planet Memento Mori. It is the biggest planet in the universe, even bigger than the biggest star, ever! It is a combination of rural and city, and the buildings are the same as Earth’s. There is no harmful pollution on this planet, and there are hovering showers. Food and water is provided by the planet where there are only fruits and vegetables. The houses are all huge mountains. You have freedom to do anything but kill, disrespect others, and be racist. There is also a forcefield around us. With food, water, technology, family, and friends, I think the world will be fine.

Now, one last thing. I have placed nanobots in your and the peoples’ heads. If you or anyone else acts bad, you will be exiled to the dark side of the planet by force!
Rural or city: City

What the buildings look like: Buildings are made out of bricks without glass or hidden doors.

How people transport themselves: They use fluffy clouds with guns and grenades.

How people get food and water: We are going to grow our food, and transport it to restaurants.

What people live in: People live in flying house with a Siri system.

What kind of jobs people do: People work in construction and as police, doctors, and chefs.

What kind of rules and government your world has:
- 1. No purge (no killing)
- 2. Barack Obama is our 1st president
- 3. People have to finish high school
- 4. People need to grow their own food
- 5. Taco Tuesdays are celebrated

How you protect your new world from the dangers of outside: We have weapons.

What your top survival priorities are: Our priorities are to have food, water, and shelter.

A new invention to keep your world running smoothly: Machines to block out danger, mansions for everyone who has a family.
Scenario: Zombie Outbreak
Deonte C.
Henderson MS

*Rural or City:* Rural—open land with paths here and there.

*What the buildings look like:* A couple of cabins with 30 feet walls around them.

*How people transport themselves:* People use mopeds.

*How people get food and water:* They will get food from farming.

*What people live in:* People live in cabins with weaponry.

*What kind of jobs people do:* People can be farmers and guards.

*What kind of rules and government your world has:* Don’t leave the walls of your house, one person drives a secure car to check on people.

*How you protect your new world from the dangers of outside:* Houses will have high walls, so zombies can’t climb them.

*What are your top survival priorities are:* Staying in the walls, staying high above ground, growing plants

*A new invention to keep your world running smoothly:* An indestructible car with weapons!
A recipe for disaster!

How to Make Slime
Kayla S.
Henderson MS

Ingredients:
· Elmer’s Glue
· Tide or contact solution

Optional:
· Food coloring
· Glitter or Foam beads
· Shaving cream, for fluffy slime

Directions:
1. Put glue in a bowl,
2. Add the activator,
3. Mix together,
4. Add optional material(s), and
5. Mix with your hands.
6. You get slime;
7. Have fun!
IN PROJECT WRITE NOW!
Each of us has a creative voice!

Artwork by Michael

www.thepodiumfoundation.org