

# Teen Scene & Project Write Now!



## Podium

Spring 2019 MS Zine

***You cannot be a writer unless you see yourself as one.  
Each program begins with an exploration of ourselves  
as writers, creators, and communicators.***

***Enjoy pieces from Podium RVA's partner locations:***

***Elkhardt Thompson MS  
Lucille Brown MS***

**No One Has a Voice like Mine**

**Jordyn J.**

**Elkhardt Thompson MS**

My voice is unique because no one is capable of having a voice like mine. When I express myself, I do it in a unique and special way that no one else can. I have a unique voice, and my voice has a purpose.

**Art is My Voice**

**Ariana T.**

**Elkhardt Thompson MS**

When I draw, it shows my voice and how I feel about stuff. For example, I will draw people that I dislike with devil ears, and sometimes, I draw characters from the anime show I watch. I draw them, then send them to the creator of the anime show. My friends love it when I draw because when I draw, it shows my voice.

When I draw, it has to be for a purpose and to show what my voice feels. Drawing is the part of my voice that shows my personality and makes me a bigger person. That's what my friends love about me. Maybe when I grow up, my art will continue to be my voice. Art can be a powerful voice

## Feeling Poetry

### **Determination and Accomplishment**

**Killia Jones**

**Lucille Brown MS**

Determination

Smells like fresh biscuits in the oven,

Tastes like dark chocolate,

Sounds like Presidential music,

Feels like warm water,

Feels like cold water,

Feels like winning the Nobel Prize.

Determination.

Accomplishment

Smells like pizza,

Tastes like strawberry ice cream,

Sounds like a fanfare,

Feels like magic,

Feels like butterflies bussing through your stomach,

Feels like conquering the world.

Accomplishment.

**Chill**

**Jayla J.**

**Elkhardt Thompson MS**

Chill

Smells like velvet,

Tastes life seafood and fried chicken,

Sounds like crackling, chewing, crunching, music, etc.

Feels like freshness,

Feels like relaxing,

Feels like reliefs.

Chill.

**Curfuzzled**  
**Ti'Elle Y.**  
**Lucille Brown MS**

Curfuzzled  
Smells like chicken and waffles,  
Tastes like a maple bacon doughnut,  
Sounds like a cough and a sneeze at the same time,  
Feels like lotion on dry skin,  
Feels like eating ice cold ice cream,  
Feels like your feet in the sand.  
Curfuzzled.

**Enthusiastic**  
**M'ya H.**  
**Lucille Brown MS**

Enthusiastic  
Smells like air,  
Tastes like air,  
Sounds like a fan,  
Feels like a beach breeze,  
Feels like water,  
Feels like paper.  
Enthusiastic.

**Chill**  
**Luther W.**  
**Elkhardt Thompson MS**

Chill  
Smells like muffins,  
Tastes like Takis,  
Sounds like music,  
Feels like warm water,  
Feels like my hover board,  
Feels like ice cream.  
Chill.

**Relax**  
**Autumn J.**  
**Elkhardt Thompson MS**

Relax  
Smells like mixed berry,  
Tastes like the thing you just ate,  
Sounds like peace and calm.  
Relax.

**Hope and Inspiration**  
**Maddie S.**  
**Lucille Brown MS**

Hope  
Smells like apples picked from a tree,  
Tastes like fresh muffins,  
Sounds like a guitar chord,  
Feels like having a voice,  
Feels like having a reason to smile,  
Feels like going home, knowing your favorite meal is waiting.  
Hope.

Inspiration  
Smells like apple pie,  
Tastes like your favorite dish  
Sounds like the most amazing piece of music  
Feels like loving your job  
Feels like reading a great book  
Feels like looking at a piece of amazing art  
Inspiration.

**Popsicles**  
**Talitha B.P.**  
**Lucille Brown MS**

I feel popsicles are better than ice cream  
Because ice cream melts faster than popsicles!

**Anger**  
**Herbert B.**  
**Lucille Brown MS**

Anger  
Smells like tar,  
A taste to keep afar.  
Sounds like squirting,  
Feels of a heart that's hurting,  
Feels of getting rid of this fire.  
Anger and emotion so dire,  
Anger.

**Bored**  
**Xavier M.**  
**Lucille Brown MS**

Bored  
Smells like school,  
Tastes like spit,  
Sounds like the smacking of food,  
Feels like tables,  
Feels like paper,  
Feels like school.  
Bored.

**Blue**  
**Talitha B.P.**  
**Lucille Brown MS**

Blue  
Smells like ice,  
Tastes like candy,  
Sounds like okay,  
Feels like soap.  
Blue.

**Meh**  
**Jadon M.**  
**Lucille Brown MS**

Meh  
Smells like meh,  
Tastes like leftovers,  
Sounds like ah,  
Feels like punching.  
Meh.

**Betrayal**  
**Herbert M.**  
**Lucille Brown MS**

Betrayal  
Smells like gunpowder. The smell of gunpowder can  
differentiate between loss and excitement.  
Tastes like blood. Blood is a product of loss or too much  
excitement, which can lead to stupidity.  
Sounds like cries,  
Feels like pain,  
Feels like being forgotten,  
Feels like needles.  
Betrayal.

## Free Writes

### **The Miracle**

**Adriana K.**

**Lucille Brown MS**

On a dark and cool night, a girl was being dropped-off to where she lived. She lived in a hotel, and her mom struggled. That night, she and her driver saw people passing out food to others at the hotel. The driver asked them to give her food for the girl's family. They gave the girl two full bags of food. The driver cried and was happy for the girl. She told her to never turn anything like that down. The girl got into the hotel room and showed her mom what they gave her.

She wishes that this would happen again, and it could. She thanks god for that day. In her opinion, it was a miracle! A unexplainable moment that went by fast. She never thought in a million years that would happen. There was good food in there. Her family had been eating processed food; fake, plastic food. When they didn't have good food in the refrigerator, she got sad and didn't want to eat. Processed food is bad. That's why she wishes this moment would happen over and over again. Prayers go to her and her family. Love and heal.

### **Honey**

**Autumn J.**

**Elkhardt Thompson MS**

Honey is like sticky syrup, but much sweeter and tastier. Also, honey is healthy for you. You can make honey lollipops, honey tea, honey cake, and more. Did you know that bees make honey?

**Put on Your Brightest Colors**  
**Ashiyah H.**  
**Elkhardt Thompson MS**

Let go of the past, and  
Trust the future.  
Embrace change that comes out of the cocoon.  
Unfurl your wings, and  
Dare to get off the ground.  
Ride the breeze, savor the flower;  
Put on your brightest colors.  
Fly high African, Caucasian, Asian, or any  
Color person. You are strong, beautiful,  
Fearless, amazing. Let your beauty show.

**Homophobia**  
**Paris S.**  
**Lucille Brown MS**

Why I think people should respect LGBT people:  
Everyone is different: Deal with it.  
They can't help it! Deal with it.  
Everyone is equal! Deal with it.  
Religion doesn't matter! Deal with it!

**Buy me a Coke on Wednesdays**  
**Killia Jones**  
**Lucille Brown MS**

I am here to tell you that if you want to be a good person, and an even better friend, you should buy me a Coke on Wednesday. Think about it: Coke makes me happy. If you buy me a coke, it will make me happy, and I'll be your best friend! It makes me really sad that I don't get them at home, so you buying me one will make me feel much better. So, do the right thing, and buy me a coke. Or else!

**My Voice**  
**Shakira B.**  
**Elkhardt Thompson MS**

What makes my voice unique  
Is when I mouth off at people and  
When I talk to all of my friends.  
I talk to people with my voice.

I'm rude, like very rude.  
I'm smart, like very smart.  
I'm weird, like very weird.  
I'm emo, and I like it.

**Calm and Collected**  
**Ti'Elle Y.**  
**Lucille Brown MS**

Careful and quiet is what you have to be,  
Always have your hands up, visible to see.  
Listen, and only talk when talked to.  
Make no sudden movements.

“Accident.” Yeah right, that’s what you’ll be.  
Never indicted, only taken off the job.  
Destiny can take your life way too soon.

Catastrophe and devastation is what your family will feel,  
Opening your casket just to peer in,  
Listening to Amazing Grace, and wishing you away.  
Lowering you into the ground.  
Everything in your life flashes before your eyes.  
Careless violence causes people to lose their lives every day.  
Telling the judge what happened, like they actually care.  
Effects of police injustice cause hurt and despair.  
Death for some is not the way to peace.

## Collaboration Pieces

### Treasure Hunt

**Lanajah D., Ariana T., Deshawn W., and Renijah M.  
Elkhardt Thompson MS**

One day, an angry man names Jose saw a puzzle piece in a museum. He was trying to figure out how to open a treasure chest, but he couldn't do it and got even angrier.

Jose noticed the key wasn't in the puzzle piece. Actually, it was a clue to a scavenger hunt. On the puzzle piece, he saw a hidden word. He went to the nearby painting, flipped it around, and with that word, opened up a safe and found a bag of cash.

Inside the bag of money was another clue. It said, "Half of the money is real and half is fake. There is \$1,000,000 here, but only \$500,000 is real. Use this match to light up your way."

After a few minutes, Jose finally figured out which bills were real and which weren't and started to dance out of happiness. Then, he heard footsteps coming and a walkie talkie. Suddenly, he dropped the money and hid behind a corner in the wall. He was quiet and heard two people talking. Looking around the corner, he saw two guards. It was the guards' lunch break. "Hey Jimmy, let's go get pizza."

Meanwhile, Jose picked up the money, quietly snuck around, and found an exit. It was closed off, but he opened the door anyway. His phone started to vibrate, causing the door to immediately slam shut. It was his mother calling. She said, "Why did you not take your sister out for lunch?"

"I've been asleep. When I woke up, I was stuck in an unknown place, and my phone and wallet were missing. I found my phone." His mom lost connection, and the phone hung up. While putting the phone back in his pocket, he heard the guards. He leaned onto a door, and it opened. He fell into a sewer.

Jose stood up for a minute and caught his breath. He started walking and saw a red light. He thought it was an exit sign, but as he got closer, he realized the door needed a key card. Looking around, he saw a key card hanging from a greasy pipe. He jumped for it, but it was too high. Around him, water started to rise.

Jose jumped again, reaching for the key card. As he jumped, the water swept him away and down a new path. He remembered the swim lessons his mom made him take when he was a kid and swam ahead. He found a new exit through the tunnel. As he swam out, he found that his phone still worked. He called his best friend, Levi, who rushed to pick him up.

## **Friend**

**Herbert B., Xavier M., Herbert M., Jadon M., and Jaheim D.**

**Lucille Brown MS**

It was a hot and humid first day of Spring Break. Xyle, Henry, Hector, Joy, Kyle, and Jack were on their way to a resort when all of a sudden, a tow truck flipped over. This was right as Henry shouted, "I'm scared of planes!" From inside the tow truck, an octopus started to crawl out onto the street. Waving two tentacles, the octopus called to the group, "Hi guys, I'm Dave."

The group slowly exited their car, pulling out their phones to record Dave. Dave cried, "Why are you running?!?" in a Wakandan accent. Henry ran back to Dave and tugged on his face. It came off like a Scooby Doo mask. Underneath the mask was Dave's face again! Henry pulled off the second face, and Dave was revealed to be Shrek. Henry tugged on Shrek's ears, but his face didn't come off. Shrek roared in anger. He grabbed Henry and threw him into some nearby water. Henry jolted up in bed. It was just a big, green dream. Then, Henry realized he had peed his pants.

## **Advice, Guidance, & Horoscopes**

**Aries**  
**Herbert M.**  
**Lucille Brown MS**

Aries have lots of will power.  
Our lucky day is Tuesday.  
Our lucky numbers are perfect cubes.  
We are creative, and  
We are independent.

**Traditional Media is Bias**  
**Maddie S.**  
**Lucille Brown MS**

Traditional media frames everything. Think about it, the Oscars happen in the back of a liquor store. Celebrities are able to get out of jail. They marry for money, press, and audiences. Traditional media doesn't say anything about it and instead talks about the breakup or hookup. Science and technologies are advancing, yet you hear nothing. The show gives you 75% of a story with the other 25% still out there. Also, talk shows, news, radio, and films say "this thing" is the best or worst of something. How can you get all the facts from a group of professional news spinners? Do your own research, fact check, and ask all the questions you want. Stay sharp!

**How to Be Me**  
**Luther W.**  
**Elkhardt Thompson MS**

I am a very helpful person with future dreams.  
I like to sing and dance with my friends, and  
I like to write my own stories.

## **Lunchtime Advice**

**Ti'Elle Y.**

**Lucille Brown MS**

Q: A person tried to be bold and aggressive with my group at lunch but got scared when we tried to get back at them. Then, they snitched on us. We tried to talk it out, and they ignored us. What should we do?

A: If ignoring the problem doesn't work, what else could you try? Don't start a physical fight. Try to get an adult involved. Or, don't pay attention to them and try to focus on the positive. For example, maybe they are new and just trying to play it cool.

### **Advice: A Message between Friends**

**Maddie S.**

**Lucille Brown MS**

Axie: My friend just stopped sitting with me at lunch, which is when we talk the most. Instead, he sat with his friend who he talked to the entire period! When I went to talk with him, he pretended not to know me.

Tella: Well Axie, your friend doesn't seem that nice. Do you think you did something to deserve it?

Axie: I don't think so. That morning, I was talking with him, and he didn't seem mad or like he didn't want me there.

Tella: So Axie, maybe this is just a "phase," as cliché as that sounds? Or, maybe he'd rather hang out with someone else. I'm sorry, Axie. To fix this, you should talk with him to let him know how you feel. And if that doesn't work, you can always make new friends.

Axie: Thanks, Tella.t

**In Project Write Now!  
and Teen Scene...**

**each of us has a  
creative voice!**

**HAPPY READING!**

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