
2020 ANNUAL REPORT

*Podium RVA • Richmond, VA
In-Person & Virtual Programs*

REVIEW OF PROGRAMS

October 2019 - June 2020

Total # of youth ages
10-13 served: **156**

Total # of youth ages
14-19 served: **174**

Total # of youth
served: **330**

“If you lack communication, how can you accomplish your goals and tasks effectively? Knowing how to communicate is the very first skill needed to be successful, and writing is necessary in that process because you might need to communicate over email, write proposals, etc.”

– Ra’Jahne H.

THE TEEN SCENE (AGES 10-14)

LOCATIONS

Binford Middle School
Elkhardt Thompson Middle School
Salvation Army Boys & Girls Club

TOTAL YOUTH SERVED

Binford MS (Winter): 14
Elkhardt Thompson MS: 26
Salvation Army BGC (Winter): 14

2019 ENGLISH SOL PASS RATES

BMS: 63% reading; 51% writing
ETMS: 42% reading; 25% writing
SABGC: Data not available

SHOWCASE OPPORTUNITIES

2 Middle School zines printed, 1 poster display, 3 showcases

THE POWER OF THE PEN (AGES 14-19)

LOCATIONS

Armstrong High School
(21st Century Community Learning Center)
Metro Richmond Boys & Girls
Club Teen Center
(PILOT)

TOTAL YOUTH SERVED

Armstrong HS: 95
Metro Richmond BGC Teen Center
(Winter): 5

2019 ENGLISH SOL PASS RATES

AHS: 52% reading; 27% writing
MRBGC: Data not available

SHOWCASE OPPORTUNITIES

2 ACE Zines printed, 2 High School zines printed, 1 Open Mic night, 1 Community Showcase

HEALTHY COMM. FOR ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS (AGES 10-14)

LOCATIONS

Quioccasin MS (Henrico Co) (PILOT)

TOTAL YOUTH SERVED

Total: 51

2019 ENGLISH SOL PASS RATES

72% reading; 69% writing

SHOWCASE OPPORTUNITIES

2 Middle School Zines Printed

WHAT ARE THE YOUTH SAYING?

OF YOUTH SURVEYED:

100%

- Felt respect and included
- Tried new skills

Podium is helpful because people can better understand what you are writing, and it helps you pass English without a problem.”

– Ric’Kara C.

88%

- Felt safe and supported
- Are more interested in writing
- Write more often outside of school
- Worked on improving their writing and the skills they wanted to work on
- Felt Podium helped with their writing and communication skills
- Want to sign up for Podium again

75%

- Were encouraged to work with others
- Felt Podium helped improve their English grade
- Worked on sharing with others

BEFORE AND AFTER: WRITING BENEFITS AND COMMUNICATION CONFIDENCE:

Based on survey findings, youth increased across all areas of Written and Communication Confidence. On average, within one program session, **6 out of 9** areas assessed changed from **disagree to agree**. See below for greatest areas of improvement assessed.

Youth also increased in their ability to use Writing as a tool for Social-Emotional Wellness across all areas. On average, within one program session, **4 out of 5** areas assessed changed from **disagree to agree**.

The greatest areas of improvement:

- I am getting better at sharing with others (1.04)
- I feel more comfortable/relaxed sharing with others (.59)
- I use writing to process emotions (.93)
- I use writing to solve problems (.78)

PROJECT WRITE NOW! (AGES 10-14)

LOCATIONS

Lucille Brown Middle School

TOTAL YOUTH SERVED

Total: 27

2019 ENGLISH SOL PASS RATES

59% reading; 57% writing

SHOWCASE OPPORTUNITIES

*2 MS zines printed, 1 poster display,
3 showcases*

CREATIVE EXPRESSION COLLECTIVE (AGES 14-19)

LOCATIONS

Thomas Jefferson High School

John Marshall High School

Henrico High School

(PILOT)

TOTAL YOUTH SERVED

Thomas Jefferson HS (Winter): 13

John Marshall HS (Fall): 1

Henrico HS: 30

2019 ENGLISH SOL PASS RATES

TJHS: 69% reading; 79% writing

JMHS: 70% reading; 65% writing

HHS: 82% reading; 61% writing

SHOWCASE OPPORTUNITIES

2 HS zines printed

1 Open Mic night

1 Community Showcase

FINANCIAL LITERACY: SAVINGS W/ SAVON (AGES 14-19)

LOCATIONS

Open High School (PILOT)

TOTAL YOUTH SERVED

Total: 13

2019 ENGLISH SOL PASS RATES

100% reading; 98% writing

SHOWCASE OPPORTUNITIES

1 HS zine printed, 1 Open Mic night,

1 Community Showcase

WHAT ARE THE YOUTH SAYING?

OF YOUTH SURVEYED:

100%

- Felt respect and included
- Tried new skills

“I use writing for everything. I need it for jobs and school, and it helps me with my vocabulary.”

- Abdoulatif F.

88%

- Tried new skills
- Worked on improving the skills they wanted to work on
- Felt Podium helped with their writing and communication skills
- Would recommend PWN to their friends
- Felt Podium helped with their writing and communication skills
- Want to sign up for Podium again

75%

- Encouraged to work with others
- Are more interested in writing
- Worked on sharing with others
- Want to sign up for Podium again

BEFORE AND AFTER: WRITING BENEFITS AND COMMUNICATION CONFIDENCE:

Based on survey findings, youth increased across all areas of Written and Communication Confidence. On average, within one program session, 7 out of 9 areas assessed changed from **disagree to agree**. See below for greatest areas of improvement assessed.

Youth also increased in their ability to use Writing as a tool for Social-Emotional Wellness across all areas. On average, within one program session, 3 out of 5 areas assessed changed from **disagree to agree**.

The greatest areas of improvement:

- I plan on sharing my work with others (1.0)
- I am getting better at writing (.89)
- I use writing to solve problems (.60)

THE TEEN SCENE/ PROJECT WRITE NOW!(AGES 10-14)

LOCATIONS

Podium hosted program via Zoom

TOTAL YOUTH SERVED

Total: 9

2019 ENGLISH SOL PASS RATES

59% reading; 57% writing

SHOWCASE OPPORTUNITIES

1 virtual zine, 4 open mics, 1 community open mic, 6 showcases

WEEKLY WORD AND STEAM MACHINE (AGES 10-14)

LOCATIONS

Nextup RVA (coordinates across 5 RPS middle schools)

TOTAL YOUTH SERVED

Total: 15

2019 ENGLISH SOL PASS RATES

8th Grade: 59% reading; 57% writing

SHOWCASE OPPORTUNITIES

1 virtual zine

THE POWER OF THE PEN/ CREATIVE EXPRESSION COLLECTIVE (AGES 14-19)

LOCATIONS

Podium hosted program via Zoom

TOTAL YOUTH SERVED

Total: 17

2019 ENGLISH SOL PASS RATES

10th Grade: 67% reading; 61% writing

SHOWCASE OPPORTUNITIES

1 virtual zine, 4 open mics, 1 community open mic, 6 showcases

CLASS OF 2020 CELEBRATION

LOCATIONS

Armstrong HS graduates, Podium zine printing and hosted program via Zoom

TOTAL YOUTH SERVED

*Total: 250
Soft service, not included in total program #*

2019 ENGLISH SOL PASS RATES

10th Grade: 67% reading; 61% writing

SHOWCASE OPPORTUNITIES

1 printed zine



WHAT ARE THE YOUTH SAYING?

“Podium helps me connect with people during quarantine at times where I’ve felt my loneliest.”

- Ra’Jahne H.

“Podium helps me process so many things that are going on in the world.”

- Sahara W.

100%

of Podium youth

- Felt Podium virtual programs were helpful or meaningful
- Noted a gain of confidence in both writing and sharing their work with others
- Explored a new skill
- Worked on improving their writing and communication

100%

of Podium parents

- Noted their child enjoyed engaging in Podium’s virtual program
- Saw an increase of their child’s confidence in their writing and creativity
- Noted their child exhibited more efforts of leadership with family, friends, or in their community
- Noted their child exhibited positive efforts in communicating with me and their peers more often

"Y'all do a great job. I signed my child up for a few different online classes during quarantine, and Podium more than any other seemed to engage students deeply!"

– Adria S., Podium parent

SOME WORDS FROM OUR ALUMNI

TOTAL ALUMNI SURVEYED: 38

Did being a part of Podium significantly impact your writing ability now? 67%

Did being a part of Podium significantly impact your communication and ability to share with others now? 71%

Did being a part of Podium significantly impact your current leadership ability & self-confidence? 47%

Percentage currently in college or the workforce 89%

“What you write is for you and no one else. If you feel satisfied with what you have put on the paper in front of you, that is what you should care about. This is the first of many steps to expressing yourself and truly accepting yourself, flaws and all.”

- Oneisha G. (Huguenot HS 2015; VCU 2020)

REVIEW OF PROGRAMS

October 2019 - June 2020

TOTAL YOUTH SERVED AGES 10-13: **33**

TOTAL YOUTH SERVED AGES 14-19: **28**

TOTAL YOUTH SERVED
61

“Virtual programs create a balance of the usual joyous Podium, full of jokes and laughter, but also provide important information and discussion space.”

- Tristan W.

PROGRAM	TOTAL YOUTH SERVED	SHOWCASE OPPORTUNITIES
<i>The Teen Scene, Project Write Now!</i>	4	<i>1 virtual zine, 3 virtual open mics, 1 virtual community showcase, 5 showcases</i>
<i>The Teen Scene w/ Nextup RVA</i>	9	<i>1 virtual zine</i>
<i>The Teen Scene w/ Salvation Army Boys & Girls Club</i>	13	<i>1 virtual zine</i>
<i>Power of the Pen w/ Metro Richmond Boys & Girls Club</i>	4	<i>1 virtual zine</i>
<i>Podium @ ACE Virtual Summer Camp</i>	6	<i>1 virtual zine</i>
<i>Power of the Pen w/ Creative Expression Collective</i>	12	<i>1 virtual zine, 3 virtual open mics, 1 virtual community showcase, 5 showcases</i>

100% OF YOUTH SURVEYED:

- Were encouraged to work with others
- Tried new skills
- Wrote more often on their own time
- Worked on sharing with others
- Wrote on a weekly basis
- Felt more comfortable and relaxed sharing with others
- Used writing to solve problems and process emotions

PROGRAM	TOTAL YOUTH SERVED	SHOWCASE OPPORTUNITIES
<i>Tier 2: The STEAM Machine w/ Nextup RVA</i>	7	<i>1 virtual zine, 3 virtual open mics, 1 virtual community showcase, 5 showcases</i>
<i>Tier 3: Writing Mentorship Project</i>	<i>POSTPONED UNTIL 2021</i>	<i>POSTPONED UNTIL 2021</i>
<i>Tier 3: Teen Professional Conference</i>	6	<i>1 virtual community showcase</i>

100%

OF TPC ATTENDEES

- Were satisfied with the conference
- Identified the importance of:
 - creating a local network
 - writing and communication as an important skill across professional fields
 - Engaging with local professional before graduation

75%

OF TPC ATTENDEES

- Benefitted from meeting professionals across career fields
- Worked on their professional selves
- Made a plan for after graduation

“Virtual programs create a balance of the usual joyous Podium, full of jokes and laughter, but also provide important information and discussion space.”

- Tristan W.

**THANK
YOU!**

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2020 Annual Report*
