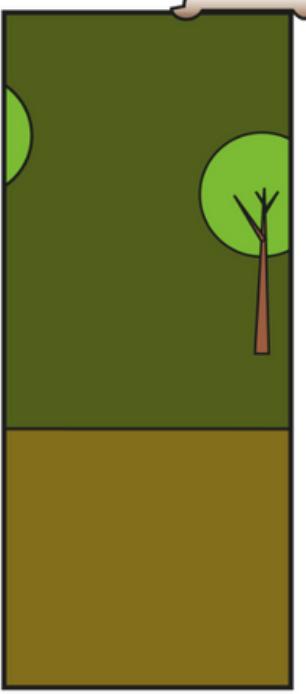
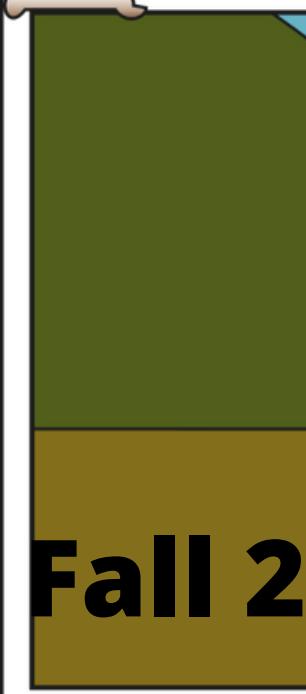
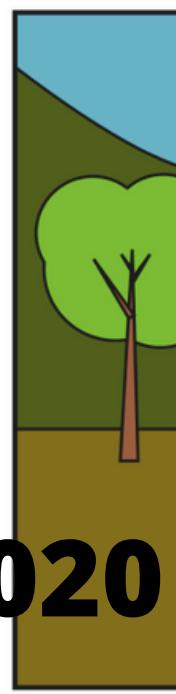


I
Podium
From Inside

Fall 2020

FALL 2020 ZINE

FROM INSIDE



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



Enjoy youth pieces from Podium's partner locations:

Armstrong HS – A.C.E

NextUp RVA -

Henderson MS

Albert Hill MS

Binford MS

Boushall MS

Highland Springs High School Mentorship Program

Highland Springs High School: What does Mentorship Mean to Me

Heavyn C. Mentorship is helping someone and guiding them along the right direction. Having a mentor can be helpful, especially for students in their first year in high school as there are a lot of changes from middle school.

Devon A. To me, mentors are people who act as teachers and role models to others. They also inspire people to follow their dreams. I think that the ninth-graders of this year will have an especially difficult time adjusting to high school. Therefore, I feel obligated to take this opportunity to help them.

Azariah J. Being a mentor is helping someone accomplish their goals and guiding them onto the path they are on. I wanted to be a mentor because I know that this is a rough time for many students. I also feel like this would be a great experience to help myself grow as well.

Theodore M. Mentorship is when someone who has experience and knowledge about a topic teaches it to someone else. They also help fix their mistakes and encourage them to do better.

Mekayla C. Being a mentor to me means to be a positive listening ear for someone who needs it.

Georgio H. I enjoy helping others, so I am looking forward to training and being certified in this program. Guiding your mentee and learning more about them and yourself in the process is mentorship. Obtaining skills and continuously growing with your mentee is definitely an advantage. I have held leadership positions on the cheerleading team and in clubs, so I think this is a perfect opportunity for me to get more involved.

Je'Nae H. Being a mentor means sharing your experiences with others, so that maybe they gain knowledge from your mistakes or even learn from your choices.

Michael I. Mentorship to me is the act of being a leader and a role model to someone else. Like a parent, you show someone the ropes and tricks to allow them to have a better time than you had.

Leira M. It means being able to help someone and share my experience with others.

Taivyon P. It was hard for me to adjust to high school, so I wanted to do this because I know how hard it is to adjust to new surroundings and be around new people.

LaShauna W. I have always wanted to be a teacher, and I feel like this is a great addition to what I've already done. I have also participated in the early education technical center as well.

Taniya R. Mentorship is having someone as a guide and helping them get through any hard time.

Dear Future Selves

Dear Future Self Shaddiah J. Henderson MS

Dear future self,

Hey girl, I hope you are doing is okay. Our life right now is a little upsetting, but it is going to be okay. Okay? The elections are coming up, and hopefully, we won't have this administration anymore.

Anyway, how is our business going? I hope we have at least three bakeries in countries other than the United States. How is Black & Beyond going? (that's our dance company). We better be married to a beautiful woman, and I hope we have beautiful or handsome kids. Well right now, we are dancing for the evolution dance company and we go to Henderson MS, but I'm hoping we get accepted into Appomattox Regional Governor's school. I really, really hope we make it into Juilliard (it's a dancing college in New York). Well, I wish you the best.

From,

13-year-old Shaddiah

**Future Adult Me
Quinshawn U.
Church Hill Academy**

Dear me,

I will wake up at 4 am and do my morning routine. By 5 am, I'll wake my boys up, make them do chores, and get ready for school. Once they're ready, they can play their game until it's time to get on the bus, and they will go to school. I will go kiss my wife, say, "See you later," and head to my job site. I need to check on the construction project because I'm going to be an architect. I might get a call from the foreman, but if not, I will be home all day eating and playing games.

At 2:30 pm, I will leave to go pick the boys up from school in my royal blue Maserati, and we will go on a bike ride and then go fishing. After that, we will get back to my mansion, go to the gym, eat dinner at 6:30 pm, and play games until we go to sleep.

From,

Quinshawn

Letter to Future Me

Sidney K.

Albert Hill MS

Dear Future Me,

What is 2035 like? Will people move around on jetpacks? Do people use hologram wrist watches? Have extraterrestrials visited Earth? Does Cici's still serve macaroni and cheese pizza? If so, do you still like it? Have you still kept with our dream of being a dermatologist? If not, are you a software developer, government official, or something else? Have you finished school yet?

Also, have you moved out? What path did Sierra take career-wise? If you haven't finished school, is it hard? I thought Mrs. Howard was hard, so where ever you are in school must feel IMPOSSIBLE.

What age do I get a phone? How are Mom and Dad doing? Is there a way to keep them alive until Sierra and I die? Did I do good in school? I have SO MANY QUESTIONS! Did humans get smarter or dumber? I bet we got smarter if you were involved!

Love,

Sidney

Free Writes

**Love
Imani A.
Armstrong HS**

I hope I heal from all the pain.
No matter what I did, it was never enough.
I put in my all and that still wasn't sufficient for you.
But now, I realize it wasn't me, it was you.
I'm gaining back every thing you took from me.
The way I see myself now is breathtaking.
I now know I am a true Queen.
I'm going to be the Melanin Goddess I'm called to be.

**When was the Last Time you were
Stressed Out?
Manuel R.
Armstrong HS**

This whole school year, all of my classes have been giving out so much work. Sometimes, I don't do all of it. Instead, I just wait and do it on Friday after school.

**Why?
Aniyah R.
Armstrong HS**

Just because I'm a black girl
does not mean I'm ghetto.

Because I'm short, it doesn't mean
I'm out in the streets.

Because I'm black, it doesn't mean I'm dumb.

Why do people judge me? I will never know.
Maybe it's because they don't know me for me.

**Girl, Get Up
Imani A.
Armstrong HS**

Don't you know who you are? You are a queen in the making. Don't let anybody tell you different. Your brown skin, bodacious hips, and your fine curves are what make you. Never doubt your beauty. GIRL GET UP. It's about time you awaken and find your worth. Stop looking down on yourself like you're not enough or you're useless. You are more than enough. GIRL GET UP. What makes you think this mind-state you are in? It's not you. You have a whole future ahead of you, so let's get it. GIRL GET UP.

The Lack of Education

Allanah H.T.

Henderson MS

I feel like the lack of equal education is an important issue because all kids need an education to learn the importance of hard work and dedication. Kids having a good education opens up more opportunities for jobs and careers in their future.

My Thoughts

Xzavier W.

Henderson MS

There was a time when I was debating if I should join the band or not. At that point, I had thought hard, so I just asked my mom. When I asked her, she said, "Choose what you want to choose."

I thought of the time when I was in our 5th grade band and playing a saxophone, which I wasn't good at. I said to myself, "If I can go to a different band, I can choose a different instrument." So then, I went!

My Stereotype Speech

Sidney K.

Albert Hill MS

"Hi, I'm Sidney, and I'm here to persuade you that we should get rid of stereotypes. First, you all should hate racism."

Crowd raises eyebrows.

"The reason people are racist is because they have heard or made stereotypes and then believe them. Why do you think that kids are being shot by police they have never seen in their lives? Second, because of stereotypes alone, people aren't being accepted for a job or into college, which can ruin some people's lives. Third, the system has been used time and time again to put down certain people."

Speaker looks around the room.

"Fourth, you all complain about what us, Gen-Z, keep doing wrong, yet you all have caused the problems that many people are protesting. That is some food for thought as you leave the room, and that concludes my presentation!"

Silence as everyone staggers out of the room in deep thought

Coming Out

Aaliyah A.

Binford MS

Nova is a verified TikTok creator with over 200 thousand followers. She makes good content and recently came out as lesbian. She was hoping to be accepted with open arms, and she mostly is. She lost 1,000 followers, but that is fine with her because she gained 4,000 new ones in the process.

The Shadow Man

Cameron S.

Boushall MS

I think my super hero's power could be used in any situation. It is the ability to turn into a shadow and control it as if it is his own. Shadow Man is a destructive being.

In Podium, each of us
has a creative voice!

Happy reading!

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