

41ST ANNUAL

YOUNG

WRITERS'

CONFERENCE

AT FRESNO STATE

APRIL 14, 2021
8:30 A.M. TO 2 P.M.
ALL VIRTUAL,
VIA ZOOM

ABOUT THE CONFERENCE

Each spring, the Department of English and the Creative Writing Program host the Young Writers' Conference for area high school students, with support from the College of Arts and Humanities and more than a dozen campus and community sponsors.

The conference provides a valuable opportunity for young writers to hear a professional author read their work and answer questions about the creative writing process and profession. It also allows young writers to meet and interact with other student writers from across the Central Valley, to get a taste of what a university-level writing workshop might be like, and to get feedback on their own writing.

Our department's graduate students, as part of their commitment to community service, teach the creative writing workshops, and they also serve as the editorial board of the conference's youth journal, *Spectrum*, which celebrates the best work submitted by area schools.

The conference also provides excellent training and an opportunity for an exchange of ideas among creative writing and English teachers. The conference stands as an excellent example of an ongoing collaborative effort between area school districts and the university.

HOSTED BY THE
MASTER OF FINE ARTS PROGRAM IN CREATIVE WRITING
AND THE DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH

THIS YEAR'S KEYNOTE SPEAKER

A native of Atlanta, Georgia, author **Nic Stone** is a graduate of Spelman College. Her debut novel for young adults, *Dear Martin*, and her debut middle-grade novel, *Clean Getaway*, were New York Times best-sellers. Her current YA novel, *Dear Justyce*,



is a sequel to *Dear Martin*, delving further into the injustices that exist within the U.S. judicial system for incarcerated teens. She is also the author of *Odd One Out*, a novel about discovering oneself and who it is okay to love, which was on National Public Radio's Best Book of the Year list and a Rainbow

Book List Top Ten selection; and *Jackpot*, a love story that takes a searing look at economic inequality. She lives in Atlanta with her family.

The only thing Stone loves more than an adventure is a good story about one. She has worked extensively in teen mentoring, and she lived in Israel for several years before returning to the U.S. to write full-time. Growing up with a wide range of cultures, religions, and backgrounds, she strives to bring these diverse voices and stories to her work.

FRESNO STATE
College of Arts and Humanities

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MANUSCRIPT DEADLINE: FEBRUARY 18, 2021

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: MARCH 29, 2021

CONFERENCE DATE: APRIL 14, 2021

GET SIGNED UP

Registration form: We accept registration anytime after Jan. 11, through March 29. There is no cost this year. Registration includes admission to the morning awards session, the morning keynote session, and an afternoon workshop session. It also includes one copy of our youth journal, *Spectrum*, which we hope to mail to school sites about 2 weeks before the conference.

Payment: Since the event will be 100% virtual via Zoom, there is no registration fee this year.

Registration limit: The conference is open to students from 9th to 12th grades, with a limit of 20 students and 4 teachers per school. Please use a selection method that will allow your most talented and motivated students to attend.

Register now: Early registration provides time to prepare for virtual setup. This year, there will be no late registration permitted.

GET PUBLISHED

An important part of the conference is the publication of our youth journal, *Spectrum*. All participating students are encouraged to submit works in poetry, fiction, creative nonfiction, and drama to be considered. Select manuscripts will receive awards.

We will accept manuscripts electronically from Jan. 11 through Feb. 18. This allows us time for reading and judging, as well as layout and printing of the anthology.

Email manuscripts to:
YWCsubmissions
@mail.fresnostate.edu

Manuscript guidelines:

- Teachers are responsible for ensuring that students submit original work.
- Include in subject line: 1. genre, 2. author's name, 3. school.
- Include in the document, upper left corner of the first page: 1. genre, 2. author's name, 3. school, 4. grade, and 5. the teacher's name.
- Must be .doc or .docx format.
- No graphics or unusual fonts.
- Limit: 3 poems and/or 2 works of prose (please limit prose pieces to 7 pages each).

Only a limited number of submissions can be published.

GET ONLINE

Location:

All virtual, via Zoom

Event schedule:

- | | |
|---------------|----------------------------------------|
| 8:30 - 9:45 | Welcome and awards presentations |
| 10:15 - 11:30 | Morning session, feat. keynote speaker |
| 11:30 - 12:30 | Lunch |
| 12:30 - 2:00 | Afternoon session, feat. workshops |

Zoom access: Several days before the conference, each school's lead teacher will be emailed the Zoom links to share with students. Morning sessions will be webinar style; afternoon session will be meeting style. All workshops will be taught with a multigenre approach.

Questions?

- Coordinator Tanya Nichols,
tanichols@mail.fresnostate.edu

- Admin staff Jefferson Beavers,
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or 559.278.1569

MORE INFO:

WWW.FRESNOSTATE.EDU/YOUNGWRITERS