

OVERVIEW

Voices Without Borders is a nonprofit organization based in the United States of America (USA). It began in 2004 as *Voices From the Middle* - an anthology book series dedicated to capturing middle school students' work in art, poetry, and short story writing. The scope and scale of the project has included fourteen volumes over the last fifteen years, and has become a huge sense of pride for the schools and students who have participated. The 2006 edition included writing and poetry from Isesaki, Japan - a move that brought the anthology series onto the global stage.

Voices Without Borders is a continuation of that tradition. We have expanded the series to include young people between fifth grade and twelfth grade across the globe. The book series allows students to contribute artwork, poetry, writing, or photography to be included in a final printed volume that they can keep forever. Each student will be considered a published poet, author, or artist - a distinction that they can highlight on college applications or resumes. Each volume will also serve as a time-capsule for students and their families - as well as a glimpse into a particular place and time for years to come.

OBJECTIVE

Voices Without Borders seeks to highlight and promote youth expression on a global scale. We are dedicated to bringing young voices to a wider audience - and allowing creative expression through art, writing, and photography. Each volume will represent the works of young people around the world. Our objective with the Voices Without Borders project is to give a voice to those who are often under-represented in our societies - and to show the similarities (and differences) of our youths' perspectives encompassing many different cultures, ethnicities, customs, and backgrounds. We look forward to partnering with different schools, organizations, institutions, and individuals to put together a compilation of creative work that will serve as an inspiration to everyone who sees the book.

OPPORTUNITY

Students who have submitted their work will have a tangible product to share with their friends and family, as well as other students in the region. Each school that is represented will have pride of place in the Voices Without Borders anthology series as an institution dedicated to giving their students an outlet for creative expression. Inclusion of school name can be discussed, bringing recognition and boosting regional reputation and recognition. Books can be purchased through the school to be included in their libraries - or given out at special events. Voices Without Borders is committed to youth creative expression - and we look forward to working with you to make that happen. Thank you.

SCOPE/VISION

Voices Without Borders is in its second year of publication under our global initiative, but the idea behind the project has been carried out over the last 15 years under the name of Voices From the Middle in the United States of America. Our team is committed to carrying on the tradition that was started in the US, and reach out to global youth creatives - offering an opportunity to become published authors and artists.

BENEFITS TO SCHOOLS

Voices Without Borders is seeking partnerships with schools and institutions that share in our vision for student-driven and student-produced work. Inclusion in the anthology series does not necessitate curriculum change or modified plans for the school or its participating teachers. We are interested in work that has already been produced, or is in the process of being produced by motivated young creatives who would like the opportunity to become published. We feel that inclusion in the book series will bring a sense of pride to participating schools - and serve as an opportunity for brand recognition on a global scale. Voices Without Borders is open to logo placement, 'special thanks to' pages, or any reasonable request from school or institutions who donate to the Voices Without Borders project. In the past we have included school logos and given books to participating students who contributed art or writing in past volumes. We have also donated classroom and library sets to schools so that students can enjoy the books for years to come. We welcome any suggestions or comments on how we can better work together or serve our parnters - as well as the young creatives who are highlighted in our books.

BENEFITS TO STUDENTS

Students will have an excellent educational and career-building tool a their disposal by having their work highlighted in a Voices Without Borders volume. As published poets, writers, artists, or photographers - they will have a tangible product to showcase to prospective institutions of higher learning or employers looking for unique accomplishments. Students will also have a compilation of their work through a series of books (should they choose to continue participating in the project) that will serve as a professional body of creative expression. Family and friends will have the opportunity to see their loved ones represented in a published book anthology - which can be shared around the world. Students in past volumes have gone on to pursue degrees in creative writing, poetry, art, and photography - with Voices Without Borders serving as their 'jumping-off point' in their creative careers.

BENEFITS TO OUR COMMUNITIES

Young creatives are often misunderstood or misrepresented in many different parts of the world. Voices Without Borders wants to give young people a creative outlet with which to express themselves. Children of Middle School or High School age are often going through fundamental and profound changes in the way they see the world - and in the way the world sees them. Voices Without Borders feels that celebrating those changes, whether they are positive or negative, can be a way for young creatives to work through some of the most challenging years of their lives - and come away from them with something they can be proud of. Their family, friends, and relatives both far and wide will have an opportunity to share in their growth and development. Furthermore, as a society, we will all benefit from understanding the struggles and triumphs of our youth through their own eyes, experiences, and expression.

CONCLUSION

Voices Without Borders is an anthology book series dedicated to bringing young voices to life around the world. We are a nonprofit organization that is committed to giving expression to youth experience. Young people often feel trapped between childhood and adulthood.

Voices Without Borders seeks to capture their amazing transformations in writing, art, or photography. These volumes essentially become time capsules not only for the students and families of those involved but also of the time and place in their societies and cultures.

Starting as a regional book project in the United States, Voices Without Borders is expanding to encompass the range of youth expression from a global perspective. We are teaming up with schools and organizations from around the world to highlight the works of our next generation of authors, artists, and other creatives. Voices Without Borders is committed to representing global youth perspectives in their original form and content. We do not edit for content when we receive submissions. Our team of educational professionals offers advice, guidance, and encouragement to those young people who may need it – but our goal is to represent the child’s creative expression as faithfully as possible. We do screen submissions for inflammatory and hateful speech or imagery - and are committed to building relationships with the communities in which our authors, artists, and photographers live. Our international team of educators are passionate about giving our youth a creative outlet for their expression. Regardless of status, socio-economic background, ethnicity, or condition – Voices Without Borders is dedicated to making young voices heard. We encourage kids to explore creative outlets that build relationships, heal wounds, expose realities, confront hardships, celebrate happiness, or simply document their daily lives to submit their work to Voices Without Borders. We are here to support and encourage you.

Voices Without Borders works within the frameworks of the 21st-century classroom experience, combining entrepreneurialism, technology and art integration, and project-based learning (PBL) modules into a complete experience for participating students, teachers, and parents. Our goal is to give an outlet to the creative expression of our global youth.