Colson Whitehead is an American novelist. His novel *The Underground Railroad* won the 2016 National Book Award for Fiction and the 2017 Pulitzer Prize for Fiction. Colson Whitehead will be doing a talk related to his Pulitzer Prize winning book, *The Underground Railroad*, on April 9th at 7 PM in the Annenberg Presidential Conference Center.

In This Issue:
- Where Can You Write?
- Tips & Tricks for Creative Writers
- “Experiences” by Haley Walker
- Job Searching Tips
- “Penny Love” by Zoe Sherman
- Share Your Story
- Science Fiction & Fantasy Contest

Photo: Madeline Whitehead
The Battalion
The Battalion (often referred to simply as “The Batt”) is the student paper and online newspaper of Texas A&M University. You can apply to join the staff and have your work published.

Creative Writers of Aggieland
This organization aims to expand the literary creativity of its members while providing a forum where they can talk freely and have their own writing critiqued by fellow writers.

Her Campus TAMU
Her Campus, an online magazine, serves as a career launching point for its team of college journalists. Apply to join the staff and have your work published online.

The Eckleburg Project
The Eckleburg Project is the official undergraduate literary journal of Texas A&M University. They are an undergraduate organization featuring student poetry, prose, and art. You can submit your work or be part of the staff!

The Inkling Society
The Inkling Society is open to anyone seeking the company of those interested in language and literature. This organization provides you with a chance to mix with peers and faculty. At meetings, students read their creative writings, listen to faculty presentations, view films for discussion, and learn about major-related careers.

Poetry Club of A&M
The mission of The Poetry Club of Texas A&M is to provide a common meeting place for the admirers of the fine beauty of poetry to meet, share their favorite pieces of poetry, read works of their own, and experience different people’s opinions.
1. Read. Read. Read.

If you really want to write, you need to read. If you want to be a great writer, or even just a marginally good writer, you have to read. You have to know what has been done and what people are doing now to gain any sense of what you should be doing. Don’t limit yourself to one style or medium. Find out what you enjoy and learn what people are writing and publishing right now.

2. Find your own voice

Don’t try to be Charles Dickens or Jane Austen. Don’t get hung up on Shakespeare or Christopher Marlowe. Those writers had rules, values, tastes, and entire worldviews that supported their creative processes. Don’t pretend to be something you’re not. Write in your own time, your own culture and most importantly, your own voice. Find a style and tone that reflects the most authentic version of yourself.

3. Make a routine

If you want to write, you can’t wait for the mood to strike you. You need to work. Find a routine that suits you, mark it in your daily schedule, and get it done.

4. Reach out to others

Meet others who are writers or who are interested in writing (especially if their interests are similar to yours). Discuss your projects, their projects, what you’ve been reading, and where you’ve been submitting. The more people you know and interact with, the more you will grow.

5. Workshop it

The writing workshop gives you a chance to develop your work alongside other writers, sharing, critiquing, and revising with the goal of improving your work and your skills. Workshops occur both inside and outside of college classrooms.


Yes, it can be tedious, but it’s a necessary part of the craft that separates writers from hobbyists. Be ready to make substantial (and sometimes painful) revisions in the pursuit of great literature.

“A professional writer is an amateur who didn’t quit.”
— Richard Bach
Adoring new things.
The experiences.
The ones that make me whole even if just for a split second.
Even the bad ones.
The ones no one likes to talk about.
The most wild, vivid experiences that I claim as my own,
that I’m convinced are slowly making my eyes just a little bit darker.
Even the ones I can’t write about simply because there are no words for them.

My life is comprised of these individual moments constantly fighting against each other,
trying to break me and fix me all at once, so much so that I cannot decide which one is
worse.
But this is the reason that I am here,
the reason the fabric of my life is textured and vibrant
instead of a lifeless piece of wrapping paper with nothing to wrap inside of it.

I have decided the bad is as equally heavy, equally as valuable as the ecstatic,
because it is both, not one or the other that make my heartbeat, my back and forth.
I would much rather experience the deepest pain if it also means experiencing the deepest
joy.

If you cannot have one without the other, I will take both.
I will smile, I will cry, and I will take both.
I will be grateful for the experiences.
It’s a question that you may not have an answer to yet. Before graduation sneaks up on you, prepare by jotting down these helpful tools that will help you in your eventual job search.

LinkedIn
This network platform can help you recreate your resume for an online presence and profile that employers will view during the hiring process. You can connect with other professionals in your industry, such as employers or coworkers. LinkedIn also has job listings and online learning services.

Glassdoor
Glassdoor is a review service for jobs, businesses, and companies. You can research the salaries for positions, the work culture, and other experiences employees have had while on the job.

Indeed
This website allows you to search job listings and apply to available positions by uploading a resume.

Skype
When applying to jobs and you're unable to travel, Skype is an alternative medium for interviews.

Microsoft Office
Word, Excel, and Outlook are Microsoft Office products that are useful in the workplace. Knowing how to navigate this software will help you! A&M students can download Microsoft Office for free at software.tamu.edu.

Google
As the most well-known search engine, this is another useful search tool for job openings. Google add-ons are helpful for job hunting, as well. For example, Google Hangouts is another video software, such as Skype, that can be used for conducting interviews and conference calls.

Career Advisors
First check if your college, department, or program has specialized career advisors catered for your field, industry, and line of work. The English Department does have academic advisors, but you may need to reach out to the university wide career center (careercenter.tamu.edu).

Your Network
You can also reach out to your network, post on social media, ask around, and schedule career advice meetings with your professors. Utilize the Aggie Network. JobsForAggies and HireAggies specialize in helping Aggies find jobs in and out of college.
I used to wish for love with pennies in fountains. I tossed my cents with my senses, like tiny pieces of myself. Offering my spare change to God, of the universe, or the maintenance man who cleaned the scum from the bottom of the fountain, in return for someone to love.

When pennies didn't work, I started using nickels, then dimes, then quarters.

Eventually, I realized that I didn’t want the kind of love that only cost the handfuls of change fished from between couch cushions. I deserved Swiss banks worth of love. King Midas touch kisses. I wanted the U.S National Debt in love.

I don’t waste my coins on wishes anymore because I know that you…whoever, wherever you are are priceless.
Wishing you had more opportunities to use those excellent essays, creative fiction, and poetry that are languishing on your hard drive or in the back of your mind?

Like “Texas A&M English Undergraduates” on Facebook and follow @TheEnglishAggie on Twitter to stay informed about contests, magazines, and journals to which you can submit your work. Email your work to EnglishAggieStories@gmail.com and you could end up published in The English Aggie!

This publication is brought to you by:

Texas A&M Department of English

Located at:
Texas A&M University
LAAH 352
College Station, TX
77843
979-845-8357

Hours of Operation:
Monday - Friday
8 AM - 12 PM
1 PM - 5 PM
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