



Written responses to Writing for All

"It's about getting people and young people who've never thought about writing involved." Kit De Waal, Writer

"Put a post box in the middle of the street and say 'write me a story'." Petra Aydin-Barberini

"Paper Nations needs to take Writing for All out into the communities that have the least representation and offer free community programmes." Launch Attendee

"Let's face it, the big publishing houses' mentoring schemes pay lip service to this idea of Writing for All; it is still hugely competitive." Launch Attendee

"Stories should focus on characters given the communications nature of the mobile medium." Guy Gadney, Founder & CEO of Charisma.ai

"There are so many barriers to getting your work published. In the publishing industry there is –and there is still– snobbery over self-publishing." Grace Palmer, Novel Nights

"Look at venues rather than publishers." Emma Nuttall, Freelance Writer and Researcher

"I'd like to see a Bath StoryTown." Dionne McCulloch, Writer and Editor

"Go to where people are and ask how we can get them to engage to make a diversity project work." Roy Hanney, Solent University Southampton

"Legwork is a powerful tool to inspire communities to write; Canadian poet, Suzanne Steele, succeeded when she launched the Long Goodbye project. She put writing tables out along multiple public spaces in Exeter and invited members of the community to write a postcard back to 1914 without the benefit of hindsight. Digitising those postcards was a real way to make their writing accessible to all." Richard Carter, University of Roehampton

"Start conversations with people, in shops, for example. They will always have a story about their worst customer." Petra Aydin-Barberini

"Craft is a barrier to entry." Roy Hanney, Solent University Southampton

"What Paper Nations is doing is incredibly important; Writing for All is a democratic right." Jenna Ng, Head of Interactive Media, University of York

"Once you call yourself a writer, there is a community of support, what Paper Nations is talking about is going a layer below. For Writing for All to truly have an impact, you have to take storytelling to those who don't currently think of themselves as writers, or believe their stories have value." Grace Palmer, Novel Nights



"We will work with writers locally and the literature industry - nationally and internationally - to address inclusion and diversity of form." Lucy Sweetman, Creative Producer, Paper Nations

"What Paper Nations is launching is about everyone having a voice, no matter what your gender, race, background; it is a democratic ideal." Jenna Ng, Head of Interactive Media, University of York

"Take the project where there are no writers." Mark Eyles, Game Designer and Writer

"Young people use Youtube, Instagram, Facebook - you need to use these channels to reach and inspire young people. You must make the most of social media. A few likes can change opinions." Kit De Waal, Writer

"You negotiate as you write - where I am coming from, where I am going - it's easier for adolescents to feel more comfortable doing something private [writing] which will become public later - they want to publish their work using their own name." Camila Fuente, PhD student at Bath Spa University

"How do you link people that don't normally talk to each other? Take primary schools kids to a care home." Neville Farmer, Corsham Town Council

"Create a brand and good advertising to let people know that this is a good thing." Enrica Costello, California Polytechnic State University & University of California, Santa Barbara

"Have a 'reading list' so people can be inspired quickly." Guy Gadney, Founder & CEO of Charisma.ai

"The events room in Bath Central Library may also make a great fun space for a Writing for All writers room." Dionne McCulloch, Writer and Editor

"Everyone's journey to publishing is different but it can take years; the filtering goes on before you've even sent your novel in. Perhaps smartphone publishing will be less intimidating for some." Grace Palmer, Novel Nights

"We need to think about language in a more expansive way." Launch Attendee

"Publishing is full of gatekeepers; it's a business. They will only print what sells and if you don't present a good business case, they won't buy in. Creativity shouldn't be repressed by capitalistic impulses." Jenna Ng, Head of Interactive Media, University of York

"People think that writing is just about writing books, which is a very restrictive idea." Launch Attendee

"We need to empower people to just write, not as a means to an end." Dionne McCulloch, Writer and Editor



"We need to unshackle writing from the constraints of grammar etc." Lisa Merryweather-Millard, Teacher, Educationalist, co-founder of The Little Things Magazine and My Box Clever

"Educators have a major role to play in ensuring Writing for All; we need to inspire future students and make technology a creative work of cultural and social value." Jenna Ng, Head of Interactive Media, University of York

"There can be so many barriers to getting words on paper. Fear of the blank page, fear of not being 'good enough', fear of exposure. For some, digital could be a more natural home for their words." Grace Palmer, Novel Nights

"Give young people the opportunity to be bored." Petra Aydin-Barberini

"Teach creative writing in primary schools. Teach creativity." Roy Hanney, Solent University Southampton

"Story and technology are so intertwined. How will people know what the technology could achieve unless they're already involved in that world? Could you take the technologies out to a school or community group and let individuals tell a story, rather than making them come up with a story that they know is digital?" Helen Goodman, Postdoctoral Research Assistant at Bath Spa University

"The emphasis on the structure of language and the science of it can really disengage kids." Lisa Merryweather-Millard, Teacher, Educationalist, co-founder of The Little Things Magazine and My Box Clever

"Go to unusual places, community places, to get the stories that are unheard." Launch Attendee

"Writing opens up so much for people who have so little." Matthew Tett, Corsham Storytown Coordinator"

"Publishing using technology is easier, but it can alienate others. The phone can be a limitation to creativity and the Kindle doesn't smell right to me, but it could also create a new way of storytelling." Launch Attendee

"Make [writing] more playful." Mark Eyles, Game Designer and Writer

"I am my own gatekeeper; I only perform when I have a deadline and social support. Some people do not know their own value; they might have talent but no network; what Paper Nations is doing to create a network of support is so valuable, but the support needs to be personalised; everyone needs to know that their needs are fulfilled." Launch Attendee

"Social media is all about storytelling." Dionne McCulloch, Writer and Editor



"We want to break down barriers to writing, to create a new infrastructure to enable anyone to participate, to diversify writing through people place and form." Lucy Sweetman, Creative Producer, Paper Nations

"Is the question really about asking people to read and listen, not tell and write?" Launch Attendee

"We should create an 'Open for collaboration' list / database, especially for those not based in the UK." Mary McDonald, Multimedia Artist

"Use text to speech to record stories." Petra Aydin-Barberini

"What is writing? Literature?" Launch Attendee

"A book is still so important; you can touch it, smell it; so much effort has to go into interactive digital stories to make them work." Richard Carter, University of Roehampton

"Make national networks - it breaks down the current processes and brings national writers to you too." Emma Nuttall, Freelance Writer and Researcher

"Writing exposes inequality." Launch Attendees

"Kids love to make up words." Lisa Merryweather-Millard, Teacher, Educationalist, co-founder of The Little Things Magazine and My Box Clever

"Writing is like a record of a debt. Without writing, you would not remember a mother's tears. It is a testimony. It channels grief." Launch Attendee

"When writers get together they privilege writing. Often this is a personal catharsis but! Who privileges the audiences, the reader, the writer." Roy Hanney, Solent University Southampton

"Being given a GP's prescription to read can make you feel a bit bombarded with information – it's potentially a bit disempowering. But writing gives you the opportunity to articulate your experience, putting the power in your hands to make the change." Helen Goodman, Postdoctoral Research Assistant at Bath Spa University

"Adolescents, children, old people, they all need a way to express who they are – creative writing is very powerful." Camila Fuente, PhD student at Bath Spa University

"Put up notices for 'Beyond the Book' in places like hospitals, care homes, prisons, etc to reach the people we are targeting." Launch Attendee

"Contact support groups for marginalised communities, I.E. LGBTQI, ex-carers, carers, D.V. support groups, mental health, disability arts. Make a poster, get into their newsletter, mailing lists, teachers, try and access non-writers as well as writers. Also book groups." Kit De Waal, Writer



"There is so much room for innovation, there are other ways to reward people than money."
Launch Attendee

"How will you open up 'Beyond the Book' to the people you're trying to reach? The people in this room mostly represent white privileged academics – so what about people at other extremes, for instance, how will you engage with 'Love Island' viewers?" Launch Attendee

"There is limited research into writing as a tool for adolescents forming their identities, even though it's the moment in life when you're most creative." Camila Fuente, PhD student at Bath Spa University

"People often want to replicate print media but when you translate a digital work you don't just translate words, you have to translate 'haptics'. How you experience the work must be translated." Launch Attendee

"The places not attached to the Universities need the funding, e.g community centres, libraries." Mary McDonald, Multimedia Artist

"There are loads of spoken word artists, short story writers etc out in the community. If 'Writing for All' really is going to reach out to them, how will this be done? It's a local project so you could set up writers' groups and networks to achieve this." Launch Attendee

"Please open this call to countries other than England - Make MIX participants advocates all over the world by being inclusive." Enrica Costello, California Polytechnic State University & University of California, Santa Barbara

"How will the people who are not currently engaging with writing find out about 'Beyond the Book'?" Launch Attendee

"Vulnerable adults need a safe space and ongoing support.", Liv Torc, Director of the Hip Yak Poetry School

"Representation matters." Launch Attendee

"What works well is creating a performance space or platform to give the writing a clear goal." Sarah Forbes, Cheltenham Festivals

"You need to create a safe space to write and for support." Launch Attendee

"The thing about narratives is we can shape them – we can move away from all the political, social things that constrain." Camila Fuente, PhD student at Bath Spa University

"Shouldn't it be that the act of writing is useful?" Launch Attendee

"New technology has fewer barriers, the incentive to use it is there already." Matthew Tett, Corsham Storytown Coordinator



"Advertise the call through a writing prompt as a way into the project, especially for people who may not write. It makes it more meaningful." Launch Attendee

"We should put the red pens away." Lisa Merryweather-Millard, Teacher, Educationalist, co-founder of The Little Things Magazine and My Box Clever

"How do you make sure that the people who don't always take part know about it?" Launch Attendee

"We should make sure that the Beyond the Book application contains examples of work. We are asking people to break the form, but they need to know what the form is in the first place." Launch Attendee in conversation with Kate Pullinger

"Sparks fly with collaborations" Mary McDonald, Multimedia Artist

"People are writing, but they don't think they are." Launch Attendee

"I find out about Creative Writing opportunities and communities by talking to people and asking what they're doing, e.g "Are you running a poetry group in the Bristol area?" or "Could you tell me what's going on in this area?" Lucy English, Bath Spa University and MIX Conference team.

"There needs to be an element of discomfort." Launch Attendee

"Think about translation...digital writing is often in English, something we often overlook. What works are translated before publishing?" Launch Attendee

"How can digital writing be measured? You need to broaden the scope of what writing is." Launch Attendee

"The British Library has become more interested in collecting more BAME writers." Launch Attendee

"When it comes to digital storytelling being a conduit to Writing for All; you need to consider who your audience really is, or could be. I worry that digital projects won't reach a lot of people whose voice is currently not being heard." Grace Palmer, Novel Nights

"Snobbery of form makes genre writers suffer" Launch Attendee

"Gatekeepers can be good. You could end up empowering the wrong people; i.e; Fascists." Launch Attendee

"The truth is that many people have very little experience of multimedia or interactive writing; it's a question of confidence. Paper Nations will have to do a lot of leg work to encourage people to submit applications to Beyond the Book." Richard Carter, University of Roehampton



"It's not me prioritising my own writing but facilitating spaces for other people to liberate themselves – using writing to make the world a better place." Camila Fuentes Diaz, PhD in Education student at Bath Spa University

"Writing is important for mental and physical health. Mental health issues disproportionately affect people on low incomes. It would be good if people with mental health conditions could get a prescription to write from their GPs. There is already reading on prescription and the gym on prescription, but writing takes you from being a passive reader to becoming the active storyteller. It's a good therapeutic tool. Why not prescriptions to write?" Jo Simmonds, MA Creative Writing, Bath Spa

"Writing gives you the opportunity to articulate your experience, putting the power in your hands to make the change." Launch Attendee