



Permanent Part-Time Editor, Teen Magazines—Youth Communication

Overview

Youth Communication (YC) is seeking a Permanent Part-Time Editor.

YC helps teens make their voices heard through writing stories about their experiences. Our intensive writing and editing process – and the opportunity to reach real audiences—is transformative for our young writers. And their stories, combined with our training and curricula, have a powerful impact on teen and adult readers.

The part-time editor will join an editorial team consisting of two full-time editors and one part-time managing editor.

Reaching Audiences

Reaching real audiences provides important motivation for our writers. We publish teens’ stories in two award-winning digital magazines, *YouthComm* and *Represent*. *YouthComm* is written by high school students on personal, social, and political issues. *Represent* is written by teens and young adults about experiences that stem from being in foster care.

The stories are widely read by teens and adults. We reach teen readers primarily through educators who bring the stories into their classrooms and programs. For example:

- More than 20,000 people, most of them educators, subscribe to our story eblasts. Many download the stories to use with teens in schools, after school programs, and other educational settings.
- After initial publication, hundreds of stories are later included in Youth Communication’s own curricula and in commercial curricula and anthologies where they are used with tens of thousands of students each year.
- Our professional development staff use the stories in training programs to help teachers and other adults strengthen culturally responsive educational practices, support racial and gender justice, and strengthen SEL skills.

The stories are also widely read by practitioners and policy makers. The teen perspectives in the stories help those adults to better understand young people’s concerns. Stories are frequently reprinted in *Chalkbeat*, *The Nation*, *The Imprint* and other media, and we’re continually looking for new ways to bring our stories to meaningful audiences.

Working with Teens

The editors at YC work one-on-one with young people between the ages of 15 and 20. Our writers are highly motivated but come with an extremely wide range of writing skills. They are

developing their voices and are new to personal essay writing and journalism. The editors work closely with the teens to provide support on everything from research and story development to fact checking and proofreading. A significant part of the job is building one-on-one relationships with the writers. That takes time. Therefore, we are seeking a candidate who is patient, empathetic, and who hopes to stick around as an editor and informal mentor to support these youth, many of whom are vulnerable.

The ideal candidate for this position is a journalist with excellent essay writing and editing skills, plus some background in teaching or youth work. They also have an understanding of the strengths and challenges of young people of color and their communities.

Key Functions

The Part-Time Editor has duties in three main areas: working with writers and editing their work during the school year; co-teaching the summer writing workshop (which is actually a full-time commitment for six weeks); and various administrative tasks related to writer recruitment, posting stories on the website, etc.

Edit Student Work

- Edit stories, including personal essays, reported stories, interviews, etc. for content, structure, clarity, fairness, accuracy, grammar, usage, and style.
- Work one-on-one with writers, typically for 2-4 hours per week with each writer.
- Work collaboratively with the writer to help them identify and describe the key emotions and experiences they want to convey and to find the form, structure, style, and story length appropriate to the topic, the writer's ability, and the interest of our readers.
- Support and empathize with youth in crisis.
- Bolster reported essays with research and interviews.

Co-teach the Summer Writing Workshop

- Co-lead a six-week, themed writing workshop for 12 teens together with our two full-time editors. Recent themes have included what is home, economic inequality, and race and racism; this year's theme is loss and letting go.
- In collaboration with the other two editors, teach writing and journalism lessons, lead group discussions and interviews, and coordinate trips and guest speakers surrounding the theme.

Publishing and Administrative Tasks

- Copyedit and proofread stories before publication for grammar, usage, and YC/AP style. Participate in selecting writers. Enter and retrieve student information in Salesforce database. Plus other minor administrative tasks.

Candidates who have succeeded in this job in the past have had most of the following skills and background:

- Bachelor's degree in English, journalism, anthropology, social work, or another applicable field.

- 3+ years of writing and editing experience, preferably reported and personal stories.
- Passion for YC's mission and purpose (see YouthComm.org for more information).
- Proficient in Google Docs, Word, WordPress.
- Comfortable applying an equity lens to all aspects of the job.
- Commitment to understanding the historical and cultural systems of inequity and oppression in which we all operate.
- Personal awareness about how their own racial identity influences how and why they do this work.

\$35-\$38/hour depending on experience, 20-24 hours a week during the school year and full-time ~July 1-August 20th.

About Us

YC's programs help educators engage students—with a special focus on students who may feel marginalized or unseen—so those young people can strengthen the social and emotional skills and literacy skills that will help them graduate from high school, get jobs, succeed in college, and contribute to their communities. YC's professional development training and curricula are based entirely on true stories written by teens in YC's intensive writing workshops. That makes YC's programs and services exceptionally engaging.

YC currently has a small but mighty staff of about 15 people. In addition to the editors, the YC team includes an education department that creates curricula and lessons and provides training to educators and an external relations department that manages our websites, sales and marketing of our professional development programs, and fundraising. Other staff manage our databases, finances, human resources, and other core functions.

How to Apply

Please email a cover letter, resume, and three relevant clips to: careers@youthcomm.org. Note: Your cover letter should show how your experience and interest relate to this position and your understanding of our work from a close reading of our mission and stories on our website. Please no phone calls. Candidates will be contacted for interviews on a rolling basis. We are unable to respond to all applicants. We will contact you if we are interested in an interview. Candidates of color are encouraged to apply.