
WEST FOURTH

SUMMER 2017

Editor:

Zach Udko

Associate Editor:

Bruce Bromley

Production Editor:

Richard Larson

Advisory Editor:

William Morgan

Development Editors:

John Maher

Matthew McClelland

Joshua Weber

Amanda Yesnowitz

EXPOSITORY WRITING PROGRAM

NEW YORK UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF ARTS & SCIENCE

WEST FOURTH

Dear Students of the 2017 College Writing Workshop,

Welcome to New York University!

In this edition of *West Fourth*, you will find six exemplary essays from last summer's Precollege students—engaging works that navigate difficult discussions related to gender, race, sexuality, faith, and nationality. We encourage you to read the fine work of your predecessors for inspiration, paying close attention to the creativity, research, analysis, and eloquence of these open minds.

These investigations explore evidence ranging from the essays of Maxine Hong Kingston and André Aciman to Beyoncé's visual album *Lemonade* to the television series *RuPaul's Drag Race*. Tennis superstar Serena Williams features prominently in three of these pieces, in which students spar with published writers to deepen their understanding of complex issues.

Each essay demonstrates the importance of turning to research in order to respond to a variety of perspectives. These writers strike a balance between humility (feeling overwhelmed by everything that “the experts” have already claimed about a given topic) and confidence (assuming they have all the answers). Here you will encounter work that is smart, exciting, and full of curiosity. While opportunities for improvement still remain in these final drafts, each writer is actively engaging us with the pleasure of discovery.

I would like to thank all those who made this year's publication possible: Dara Regaignon, Dean Gabi Starr, Kristin Balicki, Noelle Marchetta, Jennifer Spirer, William Morgan, our team of faculty editors (Bruce Bromley, Matthew McClelland, Joshua Weber, Amanda Yesnowitz), Richard Larson, Christine Jensch, Christopher Cappelluti, and John Maher.

We hope to see your writing here next year!

Best of luck in your writing courses,

Zach Udko

Coordinator, College Writing Workshops

WEST FOURTH

CONTENTS

Spectators and Straitjackets	1
Brendan Wetmore	
Quiet Racism	7
James Barringer	
The Split of Identity	13
Aminata Drame	
Natural Xenophobia	19
Mia Chen	
Once Upon a Change	25
Kayla Jakuboski	
Diplomas and Discrimination	29
Boaz Wu	
NOTABLE ESSAYS	35