



Urban Word NYC offers number of dynamic workshops. Choose which learning environment would be right for your students:

Urban Word NYC Spoken Word Workshops:

Led by one adult mentor -- these workshops are designed to create a student-centered learning environment that promotes critical literacy, artistic self-expression and poetic social dialogue transcending barriers of race, class, gender, culture and sexuality. Teen writers will experiment, explore and eventually explode their work in performance. In an effort to engage every student in the act of writing, all forms of written/spoken expressions are nurtured: drama, song, poetry, and hip-hop lyrics.

Urban Word NYC Hip-Hop Poetry & The Classics:

Led by one adult mentor -- these workshops explore the works of our poetic elders and put them in a hip-hop context. Examining literary devices used by both classic poets and hip-hop artists, students will generate their own poems, raps, and spoken word while covering language arts standards.

H2Word (presented by Urban Word NYC & The Hip-Hop Association):

H²Word is a dynamic 12-week workshop series that seeks to provide NYC teens the opportunity to work with hip-hop pioneers, emcees, poets and historians. In this workshop, teens will explore the history and forces that shaped hip-hop culture, as well as critically examine hip-hop music, media and education through the lens of the emcee, spoken word artist, poet, and activist.

Urban Word NYC Community Building:

Led by one adult mentor -- these workshops use creative writing/spoken word/hip-hop to build a sense of community among students. Each workshop is designed to develop safe spaces where students can respond, through writing/spoken word, to the critical issues affecting their communities.

Urban Word NYC New Skool Journalism:

Led by one adult mentor -- these workshops integrate ethnographic research, interview techniques, creative free-writes and journalistic editing, and culminates in published articles in *The Brooklyn Rail* newspaper.

Urban Word NYC T.R.U.C.E (Teens Reaching Understanding by Communicating Effectively):

Led by one adult mentor -- this program seeks to resolve conflicts between members of rival gangs through engaging members in in-depth discussions, personal creative writing, and performance-based spoken word and hip-hop. This goal is achieved by equipping young people with knowledge of the history of U.S. gangs, the relationships between hip-hop and gang culture, and critical investigation into local gang violence and media related to it.

Urban Word NYC Intensives:

Led by one adult mentor -- these workshops focus on specific themes (as defined by client) and integrate community-building exercises, low-risk writing/performing exercises, and close reading of texts relevant to historical and literary contexts.

Urban Word NYC Performance Events:

Events can take many forms but often kick off and/or culminate a series of workshops. These provide students, teachers, and school administration the opportunity to see the writing in action. A kick off workshop is hosted by UW, features UW adult and youth poets and is aimed at getting students in the school excited about poetry and spoken word. A culminating assembly is hosted by UW poets and is aimed at celebrating the work of students who have taken part in the workshops. In any performance, which can last from 20 minutes to an hour, a requested number of poets represent spoken word, in all of its diversity of form, subject matter, cadence, and influence. Events can feature a live DJ.

Creatively College Bound:

Led by one adult mentor – this program is geared towards HS juniors & seniors who want their creative critical voice to soar over the tedium of the college application process, while retaining an informed view of the strategies and protocols involved in creating high-quality college applications. Students will complete polished and complete applications and essays with poets, counselors and professionals from various college admissions offices.

Women Reborn Through Music, Media, and Culture:

In this workshop, critical artistic skills – turntabling, close reading, lyric analysis, collage building and creative writing—become the doorway to discovering women’s contribution to these mediums and our world. Acclaimed female DJ and poet, DJ Reborn facilitates this workshop for teen WOMEN.

QQ&A (Queer, Questioning, and Allies):

This is a safe space. LGBTSTQ and their allies can creatively respond to life, in general, and issues affecting their communities, in particular—through poetry, performance and spoken word. By exploring the literature of classic and contemporary queer writers, we build a new respect and tolerance for one of our most marginalized communities. Hope by hope, voice by voice, brick by brick – a new world.

URBAN WORD NYC**Professional Development:**

Since 1999, Urban Word NYC has been sharing its best practices with educators across the city and abroad. We have developed numerous trainings around teaching spoken word and performance, creating student-centered learning environments, and engaging our young people critically with literature, poetry and hip-hop. One of the most popular trainings we offer, **Hip-Hop Literacy**, illuminates our proven techniques using hip-hop to engage literacy, critical thinking and creative writing.

Please do not hesitate to email our Program Director, Desiree Gordon, at desiree@urbanwordnyc.org to give us a call at 212.352.3495.

We value the chance to share our work with your students.