

Student Creatives

Teens Talk Network

SUMMER 2023



Welcome

Welcome to Student Creatives!

The first issue of our new journal showcases the creative writing and visual arts of youth ages 15-19. With justice being at the forefront of most conversation today, the assignment was to submit works that demonstrate what justice means and/or looks like to them. Whether social, health-related, environmental, educational, or otherwise, we wanted to experience how the creative felt about what is happening around them through their written or visual voice.

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About In Reach, Inc.

Founded in December 1999, In Reach is a community-focused 501(c)(3) tax-exempt, non-profit organization positioned to respond to the unmet developmental and academic needs of children and youth by preparing them for college, work, and life. In Reach believes that students should always be in reach of quality education, opportunities in their community for development, and, ultimately, their dreams. In Reach prepares students for college, work, and life by activating networks, providing educational programs and resources, and collaborating with a host of stakeholders to bridge the educational and opportunity gaps between schools, families, and communities. We envision healthy, productive, and prepared young adults in every family.

Our Guiding Principles

- **Caring adults who value children and youth**
- **Safe places for youth to learn and live, gather and socialize**
- **A healthy start for all children with appropriate supports into young adulthood**
- **Meaningful educational experiences**
- **Opportunities to help others through service learning**

About Teens Talk Network

It all started with a show. Planned before the coronavirus pandemic, Teens Talk Television kicked off right in it during the summer of 2020, with the production of five episodes - Voting, Social Justice, Mental Health, Money, Life After High School - and two amazing interns, Madison Harris, now a recent graduate of Howard University, and Solange Muller, a rising senior at Temple University. We had to pivot quickly from recording in the studio to using Google Meet. We made it work. And thanks to the support of a Non-Departmental Grant from the Prince George's County Council and Parks and Recreation, M-NCPPC we continue to make it work, growing in each iteration with this journal and upcoming podcast.

Focusing on youth aged 16-24, Teens Talk Television captures youth voices in conversations about their growth and experiences as they navigate their journey to college, at work, and through life. A recorded, virtual show, Teens Talk Television shares a variety of stories, perspectives, and discussions relevant to high school-aged youth, young adults, and a range of individuals supporting teens and young adults in becoming healthy, productive, and prepared young adults.

Meet Our Inaugural Student Creatives

We are so excited about our first creatives. The stars aligned and illuminated four bright young ladies, each representing a different year in high school. The call was for a submission representing their view of justice in the form of art, poetry, photography, or an essay. They accepted the assignment and we are so happy they did.

STUDENT CREATIVE

Rachel Ndobo

Rachel loves to cheer, shop, and spend time with friends in her free time. Rachel aspires to study to become a travel nurse and help those in need.



PAINT BRANCH HIGH SCHOOL
BURTONSVILLE, MD

RACHEL NDOBO

"There can be no love without justice." bell hooks



STUDENT CREATIVE

Idiakosa Ighile

Idia loves learning new things. After learning how to write at five years old, she has loved it ever since. In the future, she plans on keeping writing as a hobby while working full-time as a Robotics Engineer.



WHEATON HIGH SCHOOL
SILVER SPRING, MD

poem

By Idiakosa Ighile

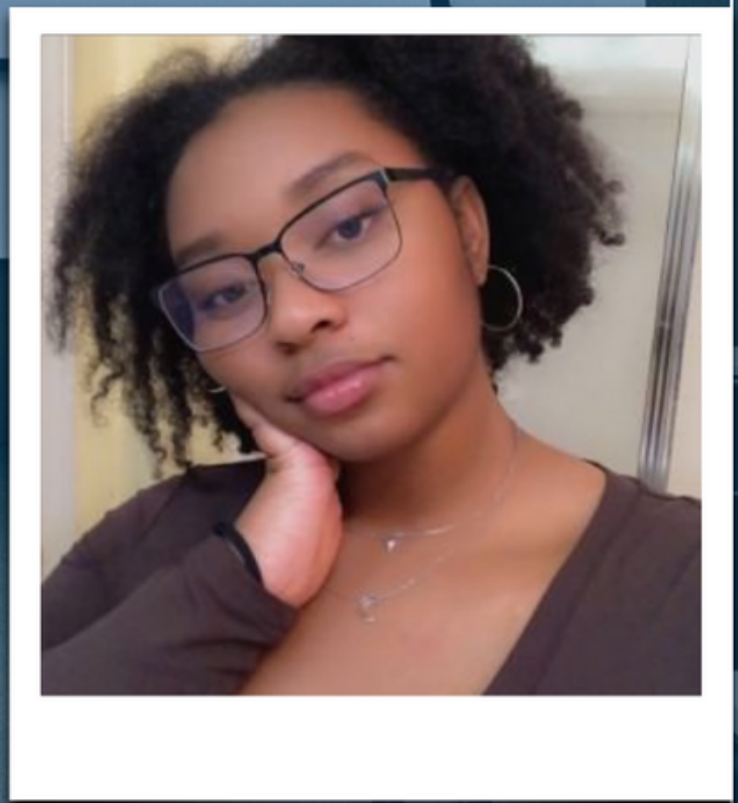
Inspired by "Once upon a time, freedom was life." - A raisin in the sun (Lena)

*"Once upon a time freedom was life"
Now we all walk around with lifeless eyes
Working everyday trying hard to survive
For money has flooded our minds
We think nothing of being kind
Forgetting all of their sacrifice
We survive only to say goodbye
Struggling to find the meaning in our life
"There is no reason at all
To fight when no one hears your call"
To scream for what once mattered
Because now all we are is scattered
No sense of direction
We forget every mention
Ignore every plead
And suffocate ourselves with greed
There once was a time
When we all truly lived and tried
Fought hard for justice to all
But now people only think small
Bring about a new time
Where justice
is life*

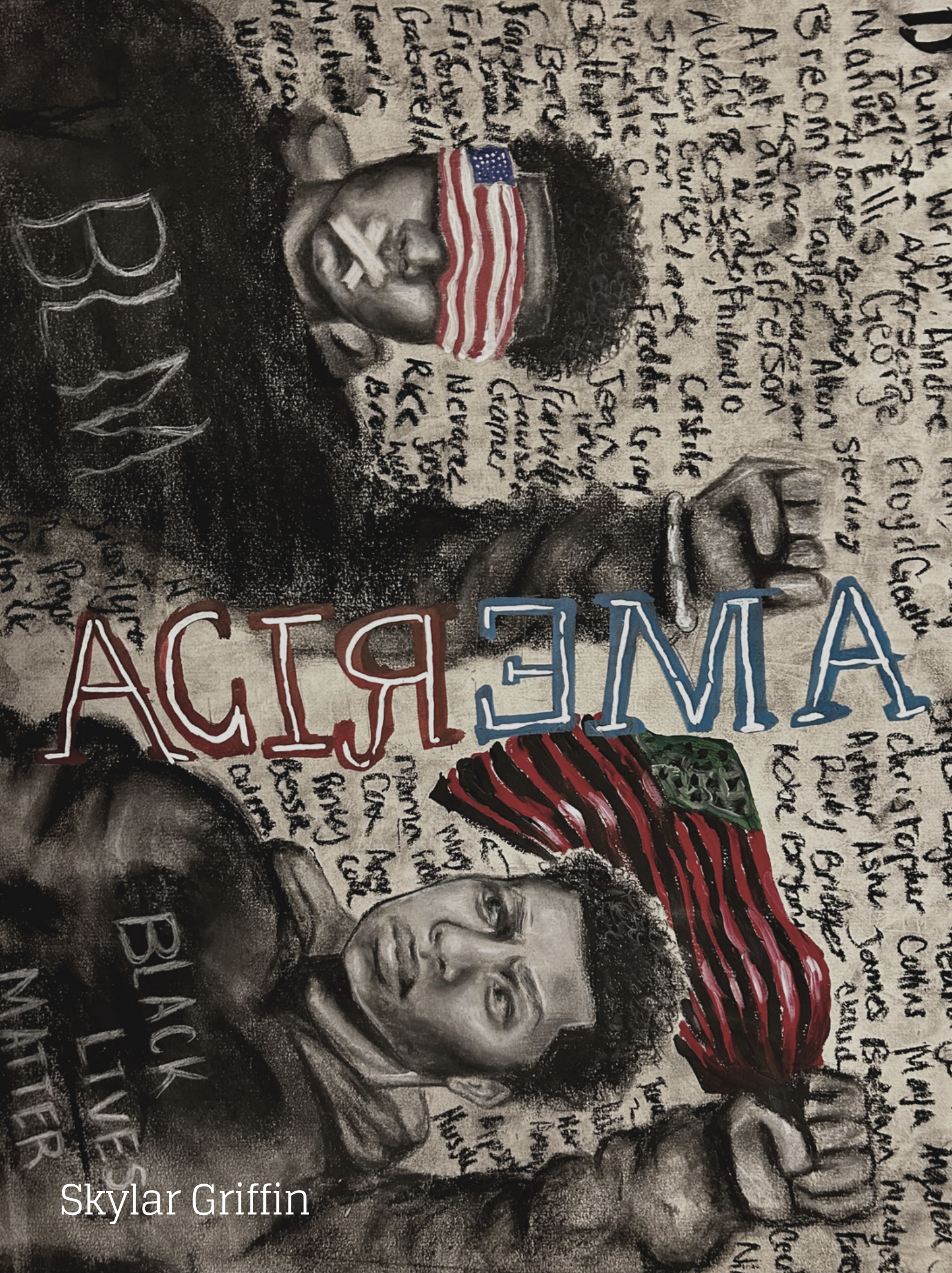
STUDENT CREATIVE

Skylar Griffin

Skylar enjoys solving puzzles and watching anime in her free time. She is interested in voice acting as a career but really wants to continue making changes in the art world for minority groups.



WATKINS MILL HIGH SCHOOL
GAITHERSBURG, MD



BLACK

WOMEN

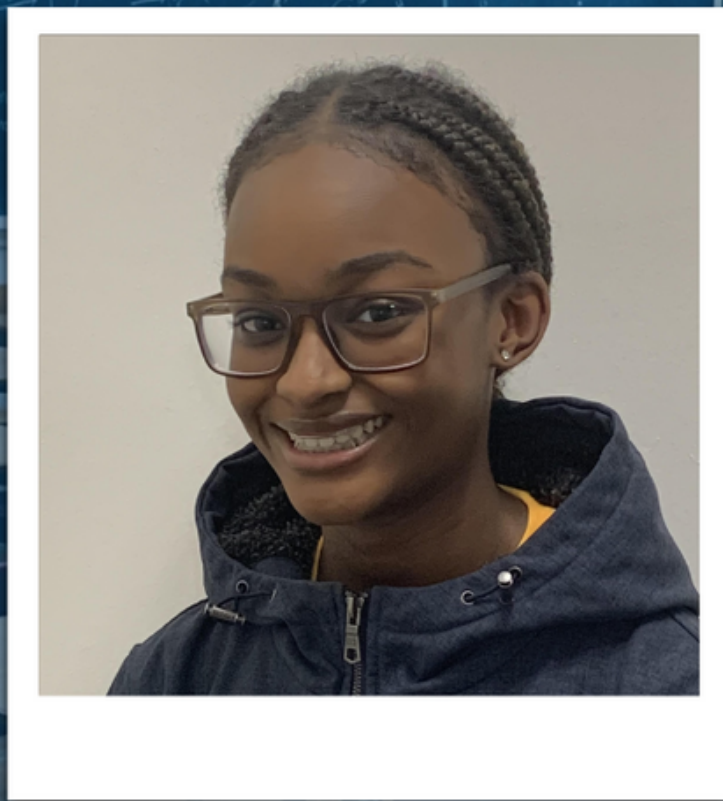
BLACK LIVES MATTER

Skylar Griffin

STUDENT CREATIVE

Shakira Ali

A devoted learner who enjoys watching television with friends and family in her free time. She hopes to one day live in Seattle, WA and work as a Professional Software Engineer.



COLLEGE PARK ACADEMY
COLLEGE PARK, MD

Justice

What exactly is 'justice' in today's society? Is it an ethical scrutiny? Or is it the moral of rightness? The broad modern ideal notion of justice is that as a species, we must treat one another with respect and fairness, regardless of who you are. Although this abstraction is promoted as valid, self-preservation entirely removes the concept of this persistent nonpartisan treatment. Throughout our vast history, we've gone through various life situations, always preferring to use others as a point of reference to contrast what is proper. Given one's personal knowledge, justice is defined by how one perceives a society should function.

In a practical and broad significance, justice is when a person receives what they deserve, whether it is beneficial or detrimental, and whether it is preferred by a person or not. Likewise, a person is entitled to justice without regard for prejudice or preference. Let us consider an external case to further differentiate judgment and fairness. After marking an English quiz, a professor returns the results: one student scoring flawlessly, another did well, and another earns a zero for cheating. Because of one student's academic wrongdoing, the professor decides to fail all of his students, even those who had perfect marks. In this situation, many would consider it unjust or groundless. However, the way the issue is perceived is totally determined by the judgmental perspective. In the students' viewpoints, this scenario is ludicrous because the dishonesty was not directly caused by other students. On the other hand, based on the professor's evaluation, the quiz was a class lesson, emphasizing that being a part of a classroom meant dealing with issues as one unifying set.

In terms of social order of justice, I believe it is untranslatable, particularly depicting relations between individuals and their social values. Because culture has a part in forming your values, this is how decisions impact the society we live in. Ultimately, each individual's cultural variations impact our views, including our communication methods, attitudes, and behaviors. Just because you disagree with one of your conclusions about what is right or unjust does not mean you have reached the final decision. Fundamentally, justice is the way you judge, and how you judge reflects your level of justice.

Shakira

Like the first issue of Student Creatives?



Make a donation so that we can continue to showcase and support the incredible work of student creatives.



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st; nicely; a moment ago. stice (jus-tis quality by one his due, reality; fair re



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