



AN 826 NATIONAL REPORT

PUBLISHING STUDENT WRITING

“This is more than a book.”

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY: Publishing student work is an essential part of 826’s approach to writing education. It not only provides an opportunity for students to see their ideas reflected and valued in a tangible way that amplifies their voices to new and diverse audiences, but also increases their confidence and pride in themselves and their writing as they begin to see themselves as authors with words worth reading. We’ve seen that publishing student writing is beneficial, and the research agrees. However, although teachers see value in student publications, our own research shows that the majority of teachers are not publishing or sharing student writing.



Why Publishing?

In this report, we discuss why we think publishing student writing is so important. Research studies provide evidence that publishing student writing is impactful in the following ways:

1. To create real-world learning opportunities that motivate students to write
2. To increase students’ feelings of ownership and pride in their writing
3. To use as a learning tool for other student writers
4. To include and amplify student voices in the larger societal conversation

97.3%

Of students feel proud of their writing after participating in an 826 publishing program.

BUT ONLY

18%

Of teachers report having produced a book or chapbook of student writing.

Best Practices

The second half of this report walks through a publication project at 826 from inception to final product, sharing 826’s best practices so that educators everywhere can bring this experience into their learning spaces. Throughout the process, we keep the following three big ideas in mind:

1. Preserving authentic student voice
2. Student agency and choice
3. Scaffolding skills



ABOUT 826

826 is the largest youth writing network in the country. 826 National serves as the hub of the movement to amplify student voices and champions the belief that strong writing skills are essential for academic and lifelong success. The 826 Network now serves close to 350,000 students ages 6 to 18 in under-resourced communities each year online via 826 Digital and through chapters in nine cities: Boston, Chicago, Detroit/Ann Arbor/Ypsilanti, Los Angeles, New Orleans, New York City, San Francisco, Washington, D.C., and Minneapolis/St. Paul. 826 National was established in 2008 to support a growing network of writing centers founded by author Dave Eggers and educator Nínive Calegari in San Francisco in 2002. We work towards a country in which the power and the joy of writing is accessible to every student in every classroom.

Together, we believe writing is the key to cultivating a new generation of creative and diverse thinkers who will define a better, brighter, and more compassionate future.

To learn more about how you can get involved with 826's movement for writing and creativity, please visit our website at 826national.org.

“Through this journey we learned we all have different voices, but we came together for one goal: to let people hear our stories and to tell the world about us. Yes, we are in New Orleans, but we are more than the stereotypes that come to mind when you think of the Big Easy. We are rare and powerful. Through this book, we will make you laugh, we will make you cry, and we will challenge the ideas you may have had about us.”

**STUDENT EDITORIAL BOARD, GRADE 11, 826 NEW ORLEANS,
EXCERPT FROM *HISTORY BETWEEN THESE FOLDS***