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# Adding Multilingual Voices to the Public Sphere

NCTE 2017 National Conference

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## The Project

<p><b>Table #7:</b> <i>Framework Emphasis:</i> <i>Ability to Compose in Multiple Environments</i></p>	<p><b>Laurie Miller</b> George Mason University, Fairfax, VA, <a href="mailto:llmiller@gmail.com">llmiller@gmail.com</a> or <a href="mailto:llmiller@gmu.edu">llmiller@gmu.edu</a> In conjunction with Anna Habib &amp; Karyn Kessler of George Mason University</p>
<p><b>Adding Multilingual Voices to the Public Sphere</b></p> <p><b>Encouraging multilingual writers to join the modern public sphere</b> in the form of <i>Twitter</i> and <i>YouTube</i> posts is <b>beneficial for both them and other participants in public discourse</b> as it</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● <b>reminds</b> these <b>writers of their power to effectively communicate to multiple audiences</b>, and it</li><li>● <b>demands</b> that <b>the greater discourse community pay attention to diverse perspectives</b>.</li></ul> <p>At this table, we will <b>look at an assignment</b> and <b>some examples of completed student work</b> in the form of <b>multilingual student Tweets and YouTube posts</b> that utilize the <b>#WhyIWrite</b> hashtag, and we will discuss the challenges and rewards multilingual students face when participating in modern public discourse.</p>	

## The Assignment



### National Day on Writing Activity

*By completing this activity, you will demonstrate how you apply your knowledge on writing to your professionalization as Arts Management students. You will also practice your writing fluency.*

As a class, we are going to participate in [the National Day on Writing](#). This day has been officially declared by the United States Senate (= a branch of the U.S. government) as a day to recognize the value of writing. Universities and schools all over the country organize activities and events that celebrate the role of writing in our day-to-day lives, our workplaces, our education, and our economy. Every year, Mason's award-winning [Writing across the Curriculum program](#) organizes interactive activities and events to participate in the national effort. The Writing across the Curriculum program at Mason invites INTO Mason international students to participate in these activities.

As an INTO Mason student, your participation will highlight the value of multilingualism and global perspectives. As a class, we are going to participate by creating Twitter feeds in your native language(s). These Tweets *will be featured* (= will be shown) on the Mason Twitter feed on October 20th, 2017, the National Day on Writing.

For this assignment, you will need a YouTube account (if you have a Gmail account you automatically have a YouTube account). Complete the first exercise; it is *mandatory* (=have to do). Then, choose one of the other two options:

#### First exercise:

Write a very short Tweet in your native language that answers the question: "As an artist (or Arts Manager), writing is important to me because..."

- Translate your Tweet into English in writing and [upload to the discussion board by Tuesday 10/10 before class](#)
- Post the Chinese version of the Tweet and the English translation to Discussion Board in BB.
- If you have a Twitter account and want to post your Tweet, please post your Tweet.

#### Option 1:

Record yourself for 30 seconds answering one of these two questions in your native language: "As an artist (or Arts Manager), writing is important to me because..." OR "As an artist or Arts Manager, I use writing to..."

- Save the video (unless you have recorded it from your smartphone YouTube app)
- Upload the video to YouTube (follow the [How-to guide](#))
- Add subtitles in your native language and in English (follow the [How-to guide](#))
- Upload video link to Discussion Board by [Sunday October 15th at 9am](#)

#### Option 2:

Record your friend for 30 seconds answering 30 seconds one of these two questions in your native language: "As an artist (or Arts Manager), writing is important to me because..." OR "As an artist or Arts Manager, I use writing to..."

- Save the video (unless you have recorded it from your smartphone YouTube app)
- Upload the video to YouTube (follow the [How-to guide](#))
- Add subtitles in your native language and in English (follow the [How-to guide](#))
- Upload video link to Discussion Board by [Sunday October 15th at 9am](#)

*\*\* You can be creative with this. "Writing" to you could mean composing music, so you could describe your composition process or you could play a short section of a music composition you wrote. Or, maybe writing to you is classical calligraphy, so you could show us a calligraphy piece you've created. Or, maybe writing to you is a poem you've written in Chinese, or a description of a painting... Think outside the box\*\**

## Tweets

Sixu Yu

每日临池，笔耕不辍，长至于此，始于惠爱，终于勤苦。

As a calligrapher, I rise at sunrise because of my love for writing and by sunset I am in a state of flow.

Han Luo

写作就像画画一样，可以记录我的灵感,表达我对这个世界的感受。

Writing is like painting. It records my inspiration and expresses my feelings about the world.

Yirui Li

中文:写作就像茶艺表演一样。我会让我的观众体会到传统和创新的结合。

Writing is like a tea performance. I give my audiences something traditional and creative.

Xue Bai:

写作就像在舞台上起舞，如行云流水。

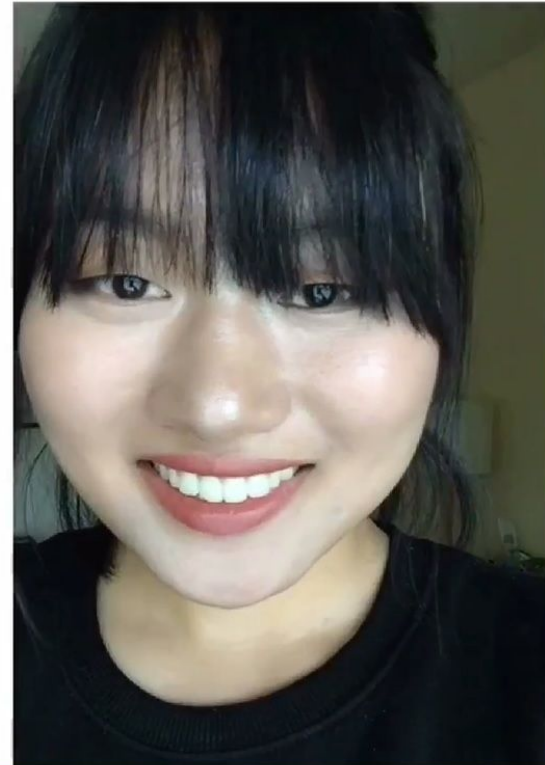
Writing seems like dancing on the stage. Movement in a state of flow.

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Videos

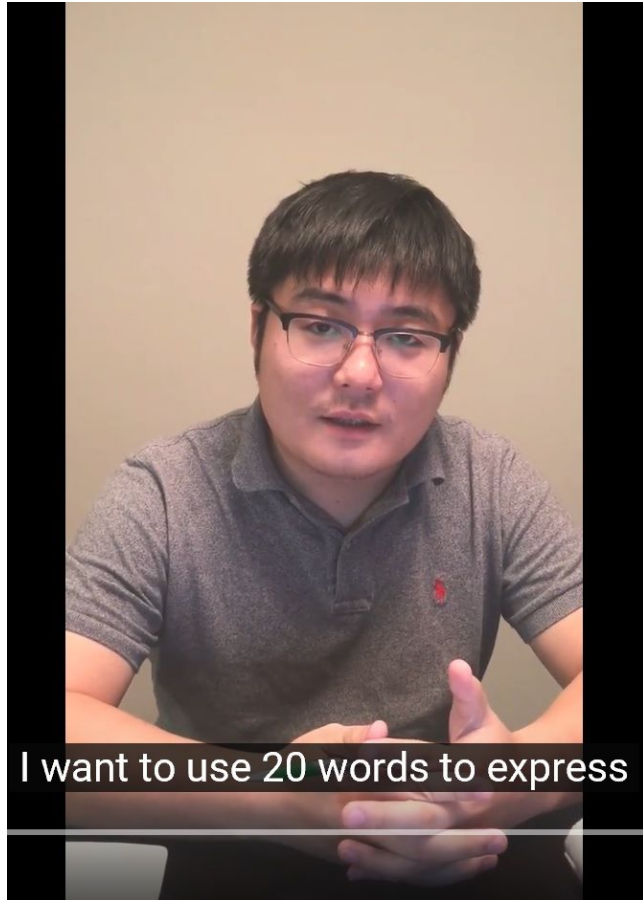


[Jun Chu](#)



Why I write

[Luoyao Zhao](#)



I want to use 20 words to express

[Sixu Yu](#)



[Xue Bai](#)