

Final Reflection on My 2024 Summer Enrichment Experience at the Kenyon Review Young Writers Workshop

By Sydney Davis

My overall experience at Kenyon Review Young Writers was enriching and uplifting.

One of the takeaways from my time in Gambier was the value of community regarding creative writing. Before giving feedback, those in my workshop asked what kind of feedback we wanted to receive. Kenyon Young Writers was built on uplifting each other as writers. Therefore, the workshop conversation was encouraging and not highly nit-picky. However, there were moments in the workshop reserved for critical feedback. This program showed me an important aspect of the writing community: that it exists to lift each other up and be one another's support.

Like all things, I also learned that I should not and instead cannot compare myself to other writers. Every teenager at Kenyon had a unique voice; none of them were necessarily similar, let alone the same. Given that, no one there had my voice. The people around me wanted to hear about my perspective on our world. I felt comfortable in my "writing skin" when I left Kenyon.

I also met a group of talented young writers in Gambier, and I hope to keep in touch with them. I really enjoyed spending time with a group of people outside of class who all loved to write and talk about writing. I plan to find a community like that when I graduate.

I am very grateful for the opportunity the Garwin Family Foundation and Kenyon Review Young Writers have given me. I look forward to applying everything I learned as I pursue a life in creative writing.