



## WORLD ARTISTS EXPERIENCES' WRITING PROJECT WRITING TOPIC FOR 2018–2019



### **ATTN: STUDENTS AND TEACHERS**

The following text is offered to help direct student's writing:

Our humanness bonds us all. When we look closely, we discover just how much we all share: from various family traditions to our many emotions: feelings of hope or disappointment, inclusion or exclusion, feeling seen or unseen, feeling acceptance or rejection, being joyful or afraid. Our experiences teach us about our own humanness and the humanness of others. When we understand our shared human feelings, we can become kinder and more thoughtful world citizens.

What experiences have you had that taught you something important about what it means to feel connected or isolated? What events in your life have helped you understand the power of actions that can serve to bring us together in community or make us feel isolated and alone?

We encourage writing that tells your personal stories of events that have taught you important lessons about our cross-cultural differences and similarities — perhaps telling of a time when you have felt misunderstood or mistreated-- perhaps a family story about struggles dealing with or overcoming oppression or injustice. Perhaps you have had an experience in which someone's kindness and reaching out made a significant difference; or perhaps you had an experience where you, a friend or family member risked standing up for someone who was in need.

We want to hear your stories because they help all of us better understand the consequences of our choices and actions. Your stories will offer new ways for others to understand the world in which we live.

### **WRITING SELECTIONS ARE JUDGED ON THE FOLLOWING CRITERIA:**

1. Openness and honesty of the writer's voice;
2. Quality of the ideas and insights about understanding and valuing differences;
3. Effective use of the tools of good writing: clear narrative, imagery and comparisons, effective use of details, sounds and rhythms, good grammar, spelling, etc.
4. Representation of voices and diversity of subject matter and points of view.

A panel of respected writers, headed by former Maryland Poet Laureate Michael S. Glaser and Professor Rachel Smith will select the works to be published in the anthology.

*World Artists Experiences is a non-profit organization that bridges international understanding through culture and people. WAE encourages international interaction by providing channels for communication and exchange.*