

Application to Write: For Youth Outside of New York City

Represent is a magazine written by and for young people in foster care. It is available by subscription and distributed to group homes and foster care agencies throughout the country. The magazine's main purpose is to give a voice to young people in the system. Our writers write both personal stories about their lives and reported stories (non-fiction/journalism).

Represent writers write stories for publication in *Represent* as well as our books and websites. To apply, fill out this form, **ANSWER THE FOUR ESSAY QUESTIONS**, and mail to: *Represent*, 224 W. 29th St., 2nd Floor, New York, NY 10001

APPLY NOW!

Information About *Represent*

Training: Writers will be taught by the *Represent* editor, who has substantial experience in journalism and working with young people. You should expect to write many drafts before we accept a story for publication.

Eligibility: Anyone between the ages of 14 and 21 who lives in a group home, with a foster family, or on a campus (or who used to be in foster care) is eligible. We are interested in your writing ability, but when we read your essays, we will also look for your knowledge and enthusiasm. *Represent's* most important job is conveying information to teens in an interesting way.

ATTENTION COUNSELORS AND STAFF:

Please encourage teens to apply, but do not help them with the actual writing of their essays. We do not accept teens whose writing is not their own.

Today's Date _____

Name _____ Age _____

Address _____ Apt. _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone (____) _____ Date of Birth _____

e-mail address _____

Foster Care Agency _____

Ethnicity (check all that apply)

Black Latino White Asian

Native American Other _____

How did you hear about us? (social worker, ad in *Represent*, etc.)

ON SEPARATE PIECES OF PAPER, ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS. Please be thorough. Write at least one page—but not more than two pages—for each essay. Please print neatly or type.

Why do you want to write for *Represent*? What personal strengths or interests can you bring to the magazine? What do you hope to gain from the experience?

Describe an experience in foster care that has had a big impact on your life. How has this experience affected you? What have you learned from it? How has it changed you?

Describe your neighborhood. What does it look like? What are the people like? What are the sights and sounds? Write as descriptively as possible, so we can really "see" it.

Please describe one or more personal story ideas you have for *Represent*. Each story idea should be specific and show how you learned, grew, and changed as the result of an experience. You should also be able to explain why the story is important to our teen readers. Sometimes people think they're going to be able to write their entire life story, but that's not what we do. For example, a good, focused topic might be "How a therapist helped me let go of my anger"—NOT just "My anger." Or "I thought college wasn't for me; this is how I made it"—NOT just "All about college." See the difference?

QUESTIONS?: Call Virginia Vitzthum at 212-279-0708, ext. 112.

Represent is published by Youth Communication, a 501(c)3 non-profit organization. Visit our web site at Youthcomm.org for more information on our programs and publications.