Writers Corps

Live your story. Write your story. Share your story.

The purpose of Writers Corps is to facilitate a space of normalcy and a sense of community among U.S. military veterans. Using the creative writing workshop method, Writers Corps encourages participating veterans to articulate thoughts, feelings, or experiences in writing; craft their stories through collaboration and revision; and to ultimately share their pieces with the public at large through publication in our annual literary journal, *DMZ*. Through public readings held throughout the year (most notably, the April journal release party and literary showcase), Writers Corps spreads awareness to student and civilian populations so they might be more cognizant of the experiences of military and post-military individuals.

The Writers Corps does not promote or support any philosophical or political point-of-view. The primary goal of Writers Corps is to assist veterans with their scholarly, personal, emotional, and spiritual well-being. In addition to providing a place where veterans can feel comfortable on campus among their peers, members of Writers Corps have conveyed how the use of expressive writing alleviates some of the symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorder.

Since its founding in 2009 at Middle Tennessee State University, Writers Corps has supported the transitioning of numerous veterans through direct involvement and has influenced many more through the presence of *DMZ* and a variety of public readings and promotions. Because many veterans have expressed the importance of their involvement with Writers Corps as a key factor in their continued attendance and completion of college, as well as their overall psychological well-being, MTSU Writers Corps hopes help establish and maintain Writers Corps chapters at colleges and universities, and any communities with veteran populations. To accomplish this mission, we are prepared work one-on-one with interested parties to share materials, methodologies, and best practices, and to model workshops so that start-ups may be as fluid as possible.

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