

# **Brainstorm**

**Essays by the Students of the University of Oklahoma  
Expository Writing Program**

**Volume X  
2018**

## Acknowledgements

Neither the Edith Kinney Gaylord Expository Writing Program nor this publication of student writing would exist without the contributions of so many excellent undergraduate writers. The primary credit for Volume X of *Brainstorm* belongs to the students whose work we showcase this year: Derek Bixler, Miles Francisco, Kenzie Hanna, Erika Moen, Dylan Price, Lukas Sturm, Juliana Voelker, and Jason Yee.

Each of the essays by these young writers reveals a distinctive vision, argument, and voice. With guidance from members of the Brainstorm Editorial Committee, each author undertook additional revision to hone their writing, resulting in the final versions published here. On behalf of the entire Expository Writing Program faculty, I'm proud to share the fruits of their intellectual labors with the greater OU community.

The Editorial Committee would like to thank those students who submitted essays that were not chosen this year. An already difficult selection process becomes even more so when considering that we are a small writing faculty with limited resources. While we would love to publish most, if not all, of the submissions we receive, we can publish only a handful of essays. Nevertheless, we laud the hard work of all Expository Writing students who submitted essays this year, hope they found the writing process valuable, and strongly recommend that those whose work was not chosen submit to other publications, whether at OU or elsewhere.

As a magazine of student writing, *Brainstorm* is the culmination of a semester-long engagement with the writing process in courses characterized by the unique collaboration between students and lecturers that the Expository Writing Program thrives upon. A brief introductory note preceding each essay connects the author to the course and lecturer that helped them conceive, write, and revise their work.

In the spirit of celebrating first-year writing instruction, I would like to acknowledge the Expository Writing faculty who taught in Spring and Fall of 2017, when the essays in this volume were written and revised for publication: Eric Bosse, Margaret Gaida, Rachel Jackson, Liz Locke, Nick LoLordo, David Long, Matthew Pearce, Ebony Pope, Robert Scafe, and Anna Trevino. The Editorial Committee for this volume—Nick LoLordo, David Long, Matthew Pearce, and Robert Scafe—deserve a special commendation for the time they devoted to selecting student essays and the guidance they provided as student authors revised their work for publication.

We are especially grateful to Karen Antell for her copyediting expertise and to Nick LoLordo for laying out the magazine. We would also like to thank Tara Risenhoover and Missy Stewart for administrative assistance at various steps of the submission and publication process, and Associate Provost Michele Eodice, who goes to bat year in and year out for OU's first year writing students and the programs that support them.

Additionally, we would like to thank the staff at The Sheridan Press, particularly Kim Salois, for help in getting *Brainstorm* to press. We would also like to thank the Fred Jones, Jr Museum of Art for their permission to use this year's cover image, "Newspapers" by Gregorio Prestopino, and the estate of Gregorio Prestopino for their permission to reproduce the painting. Full information on this work is listed on the back cover.

Finally, we would like to thank former President David Boren and the Inasmuch Foundation overseen by William J. Ross and Robert J. Ross, whose generous investment in first year writing at OU has supported the Edith Kinney Gaylord Expository Writing Program for nearly 15 years and has made it possible for our students to produce the excellent written work represented in this volume.

We look forward to publishing future issues of *Brainstorm* under the leadership and support of President James Gallogly by continuing to collaborate with first year writing students in ways that exemplify our shared vision of excellence at the University of Oklahoma.

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## About Expository Writing

The Expository Writing Program offers topic-based first year writing seminars that help OU students develop their critical reading, thinking, and writing abilities. Each Expo course is defined by student-lecturer collaboration. Expository Writing faculty are experienced teachers with an advanced knowledge of their subjects committed to helping students develop as writers. Over the course of every semester, Expo students work closely with their lecturer in classroom discussions, in dialogues involving extensive oral and written feedback, and in individual conferences. Students who successfully complete an Expo course come away with the knowledge, argument strategies, and writing skills they will need to make their voices heard in the wider academic world of the university, and the many worlds beyond its borders.

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