

Press Pass Mentors

Write Your Way to College

Press Pass Mentors pairs professional journalists with low-income students to help them become great writers, equipping them with the communication skills necessary to succeed in college and beyond.

Our Program

We are a not-for-profit organization built on the belief that good writing provides a pathway to college and that college is the gateway to a world of opportunity. Students enter our 18-month mentoring program in the Fall of their junior year of high school and stay with us through graduation. Upon successful completion of the program, participants will receive a financial scholarship to be used toward higher education.

All of our mentors are professional journalists eager to share their writing expertise through one-on-one relationships. They also lead each class of students on all-access field trips to the places they cover, like the White House, Congress and an NFL locker room. We will launch this Fall in Washington, D.C., with a class of six students and a group of mentors from the Washington Post.

Our program is based on four core components:

One-on-One Mentoring

- Each student will be paired with a professional writer.
- Mentors will meet with students at least every month and talk to them at least every week.
- Mentors will focus on helping students with high school assignments, preparation for the SAT, college applications and scholarship essays.

Experiential Learning

- Students will participate in 10 events during the program.
- Mentors will leverage their unique access as journalists to lead field trips to places like Congress, the White House, a college admissions office and an NFL locker room.
- College admissions experts attend some events to answer students' questions and guide them through the application process.

Writing Practice

- After each field trip, students will complete a program-specific writing assignment and edit it with their mentors.
- The timing of these assignments purposely coincides with where the students are on the path to college, ie: persuasive essays to help prepare for the SAT; personal statements to assist with college applications; and research papers to get ready for college writing

Financial Scholarships

- Students who complete the program will receive a \$2,000 scholarship toward higher education costs.

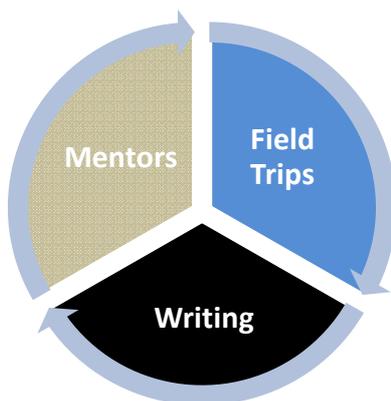
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What Makes Us Unique?

Integrated Curriculum



Mentors – Who better than professional journalists to prepare students for the high-stakes writing tasks on the road to college? Our mentors are world class writers, uniquely positioned to teach students the communication skills necessary for academic and professional success.

Field Trips – We provide students with a press pass into places only journalists can access, like the White House, a professional sports locker room, or a meeting to determine the next day's front page at The Washington Post.

Writing Focus – Students are required to write their own pieces following each of our events. They will edit these pieces with their mentors and publish them to our Web site.

Our Vision

Press Pass Mentors was founded by two college friends who work in the upper echelon of professional media. Our first group of mentors are all staff writers at The Washington Post. The program will launch in Washington D.C., in the fall of 2011 with plans to expand to New York City and across the Northeast.

One-year Goal

- 12 Students
- 2 inner city schools
- Washington D.C.

Three-year Goal

- 36 Students
- 6 inner city schools
- Washington and New York

Long-term Goal

- 100+ students
- 10+ high schools
- Across the Northeast

How You Can Help

More than two-thirds of jobs in the United States now require at least some post-secondary education. But, among low-income students in urban areas, only 40 percent of ninth graders finish high school and fewer than 10 percent graduate from college. Your donation will go directly to support our events and fund our scholarships. Better yet, you will have the opportunity to witness first-hand the impact of your contribution through email updates about our program and a blog that showcases student work. Help our students write their way to college success:

Event Sponsorships

- **\$50** – Sponsor a Field Trip for 1 Student
- **\$250** – Sponsor a field trip for a full class
- **\$** – Other Amount

Student Sponsorships

- **\$25** – Provide a student with an SAT prep book
- **\$100** – Support our scholarship program
- **\$2,000** – Support our expansion to other cities

Contact us at info@presspassmentors.org or visit our website www.presspassmentors.org.