

Emerging Writers

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Acknowledgements and Author Biographies

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Acknowledgements

Welcome to the fifth volume of the *Emerging Writers Journal*. The essays in this issue were written in Composition I or Composition II courses at Kennesaw State University, and they were chosen to showcase the excellence of the first-year writing program. When reading these essays, you will hear students finding their voices as they explore issues related to social justice, language, and popular culture. From short opinion to film analysis, personal narrative, linguistic analysis and traditional argument, these essays demonstrate the diverse styles of writing students learn during their study of composition.

I would like to thank Donna Cochran, Cory Chamberlain, Greg Emilio, Bryn Gravitt, Liz Hornsey, Kristin Rajan, MJ Severson, and Lynn Washington for reading and ranking journal submissions. Special thanks to Laura McGrath for coordinating this issue's student editors. These editors provided feedback during preparation for publication, so it's with great pleasure that I acknowledge the work of Grace Galyean, Mia Hutchinson, Jordan McCloud, Lauren Nye, Jenny Rissen, and Hunter Saine.

Finally, thank you to all the KSU first-year writers – those published here, and those that continue to write in and out of the classroom. We look forward to reading more of your submissions in the future!

Allison C. Davis
General Editor

Author Biographies

Esther Alexander (“The Complexity of ‘The Hate U Give’”) majors in Information Systems at Kennesaw State University and plans to become a financial analyst. In 2021, she graduated from Centennial High School at 16. Her experience growing up in a Black community makes the article that examines racial injustice significant to her. Any additional questions can be sent directly to Esther via Instagram @estherralex/direct message.

Erica Bolding (“The Window to the Soul”) is a Freshman at Kennesaw State University. She is 18 years old from Acworth, Georgia. She is majoring in History and minoring in Professional Writing. She also is enrolled as an honors student at Kennesaw State University. Her hope for the future is to utilize both her passions for history and writing to benefit her community and better society.

Olivia Corey (“Paternity Leave”) is a hard-working student at Kennesaw State University, who majors in History Education. This article comes from her own interest in government policies as they relate to and affect families. She is from Loganville, Ga, and recently graduated from Walnut Grove High School in 2021. Her Instagram is @oliviacoreyy if you have any further questions.

Ari Emoghene (“Standardized Tests: Do They Work or Not”) is a 17-year-old freshman at Kennesaw State University. He is currently pursuing his academic career in Biology on a pre-health track. He chose to speak on this topic because he noticed the overarching obstacle that seemed to halt a lot of people in his high school from continuing their academic career.

Courtney Everett (“The Book I Never Got to Read: A Tale of Book Censorship”) is a freshman at Kennesaw State University, majoring in Psychology and minoring in Applied Statistics and Data Analysis. Her future plans include pursuing her passion for assisting students through school counseling. Her essay was inspired by her own love for reading and writing, and she hopes to make a change in people’s lives with her abilities. For any questions, Courtney can be contacted on Instagram @courts.eve.

Anna Ferentinos (“Effectiveness of Stricter Vaccine Mandates in Public Schools and Childcare Centers”) is a sophomore at Kennesaw State University, double majoring in Accounting and International Business and part of the Honors College. She has lived in four countries over the course of her life, which lends her a unique perspective when considering how other countries compare to the United States in various ways. After college she hopes to travel the world to be able to gather even more unique perspectives on the ways of the world.

Ashley Gruca (“Candles, Stoners, Emotions, Oh My!”) is currently an Exercise Science major but is still debating on what to do. I have always loved to write and experiment with my writing. I love stepping outside my comfort zone while writing. Researching the changing language is something I love to do in my spare time. When I am not working

or doing schoolwork you can find me hanging out with family and friends, playing soccer, and painting.

Emilie Hewgley (“The Influence of Words”) is a high school senior who is full-time dual-enrolled at Kennesaw State University. Hewgley wrote this essay as an assignment for a previous college course, but ended up discovering a lot about herself in the process. She never imagined that the piece would reach a larger audience. She plans to double major in English and Communications when she officially starts at KSU. She is very excited to see where God may lead her in the future with the wonderful gifts He has provided.

Vongai Kwenda (“Being Black in Sports”) is from Zimbabwe. I am currently a sophomore at Kennesaw State University, majoring in Information Technology. I live with my family and three dogs. I enjoy playing guitar, watching soccer, reading, and writing.

Jayden Miller-Jones (“The Loop of Trauma”) is a freshman at Kennesaw State University, who is majoring in media and entertainment. This article means a lot to them because it was based around emotions that they felt during the 2020 Black Lives Matter (BLM) protest.

Nia Pettway (“Heart Hurts from Hugging”) is a first-year student at KSU majoring in Sociology and pursuing a minor in Psychology. Writing, the arts, film, and music, have always been a source of comfort and hobby for her, and they help her to better break down and understand the complexities of the world. This can be seen in her navigation of her own feelings via her essay.

Robin Tandongfor (“Keeping it Real”) is a 19-year-old freshman from College Park, Georgia. She is currently enrolled in Kennesaw State University and is majoring in Information Technology. Her Instagram is @its.robinnnnn.

Evan Velez (“A Bad Time to Name Your Pet: Pet Names in the Age of Witches”) is a dual enrollment student that has been homeschooled since kindergarten. He is currently in the 11th grade. When there is time, Evan engages in a variety of hobbies, including coding, drawing, writing poetry, reading, and running. Writing this paper was part of an assignment for Dr. Behrman’s ENGL 1102 Class. His favorite high school subject is currently literature. While writing his research paper he read several books about witchcraft trials and always found them intriguing.