The New York State Writers Institute in conjunction with the Office of the Dean of Special Programs at Skidmore College is pleased to announce the 14th annual creative writing workshop for high school students. The New York State Summer Young Writers Institute (SYWI) will be held at Skidmore College, Saratoga Springs, New York, July 1–7, 2012.

Participants in the SYWI will receive instruction in poetry, fiction, and imaginative nonfiction, and will engage in the critical evaluation of each other’s work. There will be three workshops per day: two sessions in the morning, and one in the afternoon.

In addition, the young writers will have an opportunity to interact with some of the most well-regarded authors in the country. In 2011, our students attended evening readings and craft talks by such nationally known writers as Michael Ondaatje, Joseph O’Hare, Frank Bidart, Marilynne Robinson, Mary Gordon and Robert Pinsky, among others, as part of the New York State Summer Writers Institute, a workshop for college and post-college writers which also takes place on the Skidmore campus during the month of July. By bringing the top student writers in the country together to work extensively with professional writers, the SYWI provides young artists with recognition, respect, opportunities for artistic development, and peer support. Participants are expected to write extensively and complete pieces of work in three genres. Computers will be available for writing and revision. Students will present readings of their work at the end of the week, and their poems, essays, and stories will be published in an anthology.

The SYWI is open to any high school student entering the 10th, 11th, or 12th grade in the fall of 2012. Based on a complete application consisting of the following: a completed online application form; $40 application fee; best writing sample—any genre(s) (poetry, fiction, nonfiction, play, screenplay) up to a maximum of 15 pages typed, double-spaced. If applying for financial aid, a completed Financial Aid Application must also be included.

Financial Aid

Full and partial financial aid awards are available to qualified students based on need. For more information on how to apply for financial aid visit the New York State Summer Young Writers Institute Web site at: www.skidmore.edu/summer. Fill out the form for the New York State Summer Young Writers Institute. Specific instructions are available there. A complete application consists of the following: a completed online application form, $40 application fee, best writing sample—any genre(s) (poetry, fiction, nonfiction, play, screenplay) up to a maximum of 15 pages typed, double-spaced. If applying for financial aid, a completed Financial Aid Application must also be included.

Submission of the online application and supporting materials is required by April 1, 2012. Writers accepted into the Summer Young Writers Institute will be notified after April 20, 2012.

For More Information

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