

Who's Who at Women Writing for (a) Change

Spotlight on: Avery Smith and Meg Stentz



Avery Smith and Meg Stentz

Avery is a 2013 graduate of Indiana University, where she took seriously her study of poetry, gender, and identity. Avery has always been interested in poetry, though when she first started coming to Women Writing classes as a girl, her writing tended to focus on nature. In 2007 Avery attended the Young Women's Feminist Leadership Academy, then in its second year. Since completing YWFLA, Avery has been assisting and teaching the young women's programs. She directs the blossoming Young Women's programming in Bloomington, Indiana.

Meg graduated from The Ohio State University in 2013, and accepted a teaching position in Charleston, South Carolina. Though Meg studied English and writing, she now teaches science, and is grateful to come home for the summers to soak up the poetry of young people. Meg attended the 2007 YWFLA with Avery, and has been teaching camps and semester classes since then—as often as possible with Avery.

Together Avery and Meg successfully co-facilitated the 2012-13 YWFLA program for six courageous high-school aged young women through deep reflection and learning about their feminism. The academy culminates in a practicum project where the young women are asked to carry the radical safe space created at Women Writing out into the world or into their lives in some meaningful way. These projects were both varied and astounding. A few of the young women created circles in their communities, one reflected on her physical body, and another wrote and performed her monologues.

As Avery and Meg co-facilitate the camps for girls and teens this summer, often alongside their YWFLA graduates, they are dreaming of these girls and teens further exploring their leadership. Their hope is that next summer the time will be right for both women to slip back to their first Women Writing home in Cincinnati, and create a space for the brave emerging leadership of young high school-aged women. Stay tuned for more information regarding YWFLA 2015 in the coming months!



Young Women Writing for (a) Change

