Be part of Youth Communication’s 41st annual summer writing workshop. Participate in writing lessons and group activities. Explore your feelings and experiences with economic inequality and write about how to address it.

No prior experience is required, but you must be able to attend for all six weeks. Your stories will be read by thousands of people and may appear in Youth Communication’s curricula. All participants receive a $600 stipend plus a daily MetroCard and $10 for lunch.

WHO’S RICH? WHO’S POOR? AND WHY?
Our theme this summer is economic inequality. The gap between rich and poor has been widening since the 1970s. The top 1% of Americans now own more than 40% of the wealth in our country. How does this show up in our everyday lives? Why has this country become so unequal? What changes would make our system more fair?

WRITE ABOUT IT!

WHO’S RICH? WHO’S POOR? AND WHY?

WRITE ABOUT IT!

APPLY ONLINE BY MAY 15, 2020
bit.ly/ycteenwrite
We will respond to all applicants by June 5
Youth Communication publishes personal narratives by teens in two award-winning magazines: YCteen, by and for New York City high school students, and Represent, by and for young people in foster care. This is a competitive workshop—we only accept 12 students—so start working on your application essays now!

**Dates and Times:** The workshop runs Monday through Thursday from July 6 to August 13. The hours are 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

**Stipend:** $600, plus MetroCards and $10 for lunch.

**Location:** Youth Communication office, 242 West 38th Street, 6th floor. The office is easily accessible by many subway lines.

**Eligibility:** Anyone ages 15 to 20 who lives within commuting distance is eligible to apply. We’re interested in your writing skills, but when we judge your essays we will also look for your ideas and willingness to write deeply personal stories. Youth Communication’s most essential job is to amplify youth voice in a compelling way.

**Deadline:** Applications must be received by **May 15, 2020.** We will respond to all applicants by June 5.

**WHO’S RICH? WHO’S POOR? AND WHY?**

It can be hard to see economic inequality. For one thing, billionaires generally don’t hang out with people like us, and the systems of wealth are mysterious.

But most of us feel it. Are you worried about college loans? Has your family had to move because of high rents? Do you rely on food stamps? If you answered yes to any of these, do you feel like it’s your fault or just “the way it is?” Do you feel that the rich work harder than you, your family, and community members to get what they have? Or do you feel they have advantages that you don’t?

We want to spend the summer poking around the American Dream. That’s the idea that we all have an equal shot at wealth if we only work hard enough the American Dream suggests that racism or sexism, segregation (of schools, neighborhoods, jobs, and more.), or inherited wealth don’t tilt the playing field. We will look at evidence from our own lives and also learn from speakers, field trips, and readings exploring why the rich get richer and the rest of us don’t.

Answer the following questions. **Please be thorough.**

1) Good personal stories include many details, sometimes painful, sometimes embarrassing, and your thoughts and feelings. Think of one personal story you’d like to work on and write at least six well-developed paragraphs as a first draft.

2) Please write an essay on **ONE** of these two topics:

Write about not having enough money for something you or your family need or want. Have you ever skimped on medical care because it would cost too much? Been bullied at school for not having the “right” clothes or sneakers? Been hungry? Skipped an appointment because you didn’t have a MetroCard? Write an essay about not having enough — how it feels, and how you explain it and make sense of it. Has anything you learned from school, readings, or listening to politicians or anything else helped you understand it?

OR

It is an election year, and the candidates for president and other offices are talking a lot about how to help “working people.” Tell us about some problem of economic inequality from your own life and propose a solution to it. Pretend you’re running for office and explain your idea. We don’t expect you to know everything about taxes and government programs, but offer general ideas of who and where money should go, and who or where it might come from.

**Questions?** Call Holly St. Lifer at 212-279-0708, ext. 116.